

# A prescription for developing countries to avoid chaos: A tolerant view

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## ABSTRACT

*To avoid chaos, instability and bloodshed in the developing countries that are candidate for the next Arabian Spring, this study puts forward a suggested prescription that depends on wisdom as well as on tolerance and reconciliation between the three major players in the country; the state, the corrupted elite and the people. The prescription simply suggests that the silent wisdom in such countries come up with a tolerance plan with which all three parties find an escape to survival, have a social contract on it and let the government implement it. The plan should see light before the political situation in any country reaches a point of no return when bloodshed is involved.*

**Keywords:** Developing Countries, Chaos, Tolerance, Corruption, Arabian Spring

## 1. Introduction

{ وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا بَلَدًا آمِنًا وَارْزُقْ أَهْلَهُ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ [البقرة:126]

“And mention when Abraham said, My lord, make this a city of peace, and feed people with fruit”  
Soura 2 (Al-Baquara), Verse 126 of the Quran.

The above Verse states that securing safe shelter and food is the basic need to achieve a stable and lasting life for a society; a life with no oppression and no killing of one another.

Therefore, the objective of this research is to have a safe society and for people to enjoy their lives by having suitable basic services. The remainder of this study is divided into five sections. The next section provides a present view on where problems exist. Section three presents a literature review. The fourth section describes the research method and procedures. The fifth section describes the problem and presents solutions followed by the conclusion section.

## 2. Present view on where problems exist

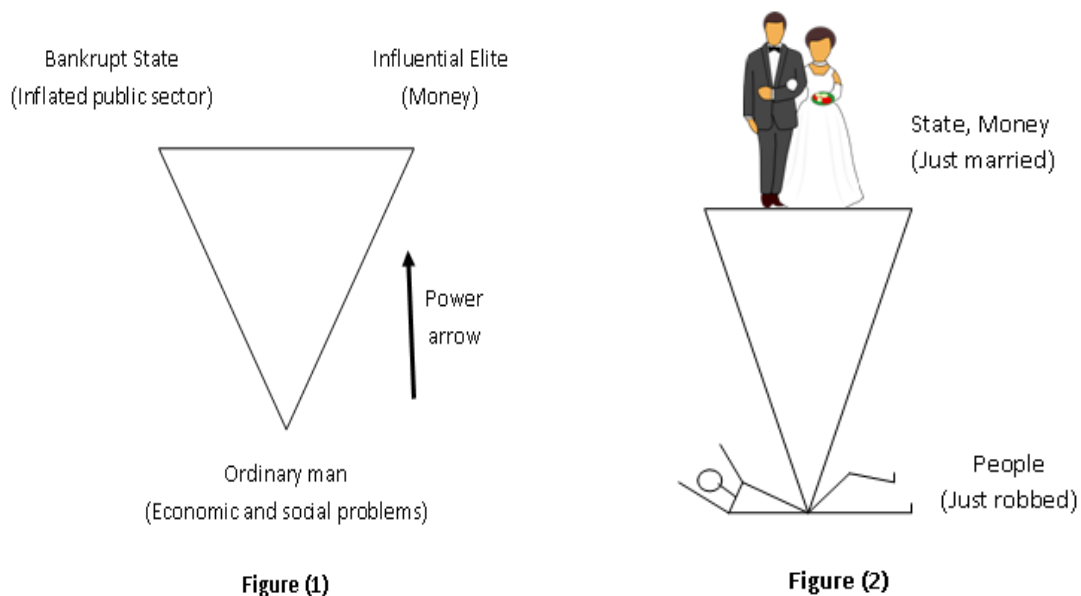
1. Corrupted elite who went very far in their corruption because they were left without being questioned for their corruption. They took everything that their hands could reach and left the state bankrupt and in deep debt. They infiltrate the state and became very influential.
2. A state with an inflated public sector and no money to provide suitable services to its people. A state that found itself under a huge pressure from that elite, who stretched it to the limit where it started losing its political and economic grip, hence losing popularity and social influence.
3. The ordinary man or woman in the street who sees an impotent state that provides minor services, and if the services are there, they are not affordable. This man or woman finds himself or herself drawn into the corruption cycle and sometimes forced to join one of the corrupted opponents.

In summary, the present view is as follows; a state with an inflated public sector, empty pockets and a commitment to provide services, a corrupted elite who are very influential in the state and among people, and a clueless, non-served (and sometimes jobless) ordinary man or woman of the street. As said earlier, the three parties (at least the upper two and the majority of the third) fear chaotic inversion of the triangle, which, when starts, will have unpredictable consequences and results.

In this environment no tolerant view or wise movement was created or appeared to have a role in these circumstances.

Figure (1) shows the conventional powers in a developing country with a power arrow directed up to show more power as you go up in your position in the triangle. The ordinary man comes last powerwise and the situation could worsen when the power and money marry and fuse together to form the (family state ↔ family business) duality, as shown in figure (2), which of course works against the man in the street.

Not only physically, but also economically and socially, the inverted triangles of figures (1) and (2) are unstable; the triangle may start tilting and eventually gets inverted upside down, i.e. people take the lead and top the triangle. In fact this scenario does not only scare governments or the elites in the developing countries, but also the majority of the ordinary people who fear chaos, insecurity and bloodshed that may accompany the inversion process that may last longer than anyone could expect.



### 3. Literature Review

From the previous paragraph we conclude that “Corporate bodies” interact with sovereign power in an unhealthy alignment between business and political power (for details, see Mooney et al., 2009). The same view came from Wolf (2011) when she blamed a global “Corporatocracy” for being a cause of many problems and for having “purchased governments and legislature, created its own armed enforcers, engaged in systemic economic fraud, and plundered treasuries and ecosystems” (also, see Sachs, 2011).

Fraud is a major problem for most organizations (Albrecht et al., 1995). Stories about fraud often appear in newspapers, TV programmes, and business periodicals. A review of such articles reveals that frauds are not perpetrated only against large organizations but are associated with small businesses (Weirich et al., 2010) and states. Fraud examinations and background checks are not easy tasks. One must have the proper training, skills, and experience to conduct a successful fraud investigation (for details, see Bawaneh, 2011b). Therefore, to control these issues we need a type of governance guidelines and procedures, and governance mechanisms that may help people better understand how corporate governance practices are being shaped in a country (Bawaneh, 2011a).

#### **4. Research Method and Procedures**

This research seeks to study the social world from the perspective of organizational actors and to explain the organizational response to environmental change and the development in the use of control systems in accordance with organizational context (e.g. Hopper, et al., 1986). Therefore, to understand control system as social practice, which would require detailed case studies (e.g. Hopper & Powell, 1985), it is “necessary” both “to look at the relationship between day-to-day social action and the dimensions of social structure”, and “to locate practice in its historical, as well as its economic, social and organizational contexts” (Scapens, 1990, p.268).

Case studies which suitable for this type of research (Bawaneh, 2011a; Hopper & Powell, 1985), due to many reasons, because researcher has “no control over events” (Yin, 1989), and are preferable for questions related to “why” or “how” (Bawaneh, 1997) which will focus on a contemporary phenomenon within a real-life context (Ferriera & Merchant, 1992). Also, case study approaches emphasis the importance of getting close to the practicing people and situations to understand personally the realities of daily life (Yin, 1989).

The present study deals with certain environmental factors and human judgment, in dealing with field data and the questions regarding these issues do not have a standard answer in both economic and organization theories. The state of Jordan was chosen on the basis of openness to society access and the researcher had received full cooperation and support in his research from all people involved.

Thus, the case study approach helped this study to deal with multiple source of evidence and utilized a variety of methods in collecting evidence to get close to the subject and to pay close attentions to the social context, and to gather more complete evidence on the issues under close examination.

Therefore, this study utilized the “data-triangulation” approach to collect data many techniques were used covering interviews, participant observations, documents analysis, archival records, examination of newspaper report, an TV stations programmes.

The researcher emphasizes the reliability and validity of the field data to confirm that data are accurate, by adopting many strategies to counter threats to validity and reliability in field research. The researcher spends a substantial time in the research setting; uses multiple methods; follows good interpersonal behavior while in the field; and, continually gets feedback during data collection from the same informants as well as new ones.

## **5. Problem and Solution**

**Hypothesis:** From what we see on the ground, let's assume the following;

1. A government that is firm and determined to implement the law and eradicate corruption.
2. The corrupted elite who resist reform very strongly and are willing to instigate their people to create chaos so that they don't lose their privileges.

This hypothesis also assumes that each of the major two players (government and the corrupted) will become prejudiced about their opinions and things may develop to one of the known five "Arabian Spring", namely the Tunisian, Egyptian, Libyan, Yemeni or Syrian. All these models may lead to instability, killing and counter killing and eventually to long term chaos and fighting whose fuel is everybody, particularly the ordinary people. Hence, we have the problem of potential unrest that may lead to uprising.

### **5.1 Problem**

If the government insists on chasing the corrupted, they will create chaos, which, in turn, will lead to foreign investment capita to flow out of the country. Furthermore, because they have already penetrated the state, the corrupted will try to destroy evidence of their corruption and the state will have no alibi. As a result, the state will not be able to return the money, foreign investment will fade, debt will grow, people will not receive good services and the economic, social, and then political, unrest will prevail. Also, the corrupted find themselves in a run to avoid trial and their businesses at risk and ordinary people ready to fight for survival.

### **5.2 Suggested Plan: A Solution**

Solution is in the hands (and minds) of the wise!

To avoid chaos, this research suggests a formula for the settlement that depends on reconciliation, compromise and tolerance among all parties that should come from the silent wisdom. The government should be convinced to insist on listing the corrupted, corrupted deals and amounts of money. The list also should contain people suspected with corruption, projects and money. Such list should be very long since corruption has prevailed for so long. If the government takes further actions against those people by confiscating their wealth and putting them to trial, they will lose their revenues and maybe themselves. They should be convinced to go to reconciliation. The ordinary people should be convinced that the priority is to return the money and embark on a comprehensive development plan.

### **When is the best time for the plan to come out?**

The plan can be possible anytime before things arrive at a point of no return, where bloodshed is involved.

### **Who should take the initiative?**

As said earlier, the wise, who never took leading official positions, ordinary people who are known in their local communities in good deeds and even the head of the state if his hands are not dirty with money or blood should take the initiative.

### **5.3 Workable Plan: What to do next?**

The wise furnish for what we may call "gentlemen agreements or social contracts" between the three parties; the government, the listed corrupted and/or suspects and the people. The government should offer interest free Treasury Bonds, and each suspect should be willing to buy these bonds that are equivalent in value to the looted amounts of money in the list in front of his or her name. In return, the government stops pursuing him or her or confiscating his or her belongings.

By this, the state returns the stolen money and is now capable of servicing the debt, injecting cash into the market and offering services to its people; the suspects are now safe and can continue their

businesses normally and earn money from the refreshment of the economy; the economic wheel restarts rotating again due to the money input and to the trust of foreign investors that the country is politically stable; and finally the people can now find jobs and enjoy services in a stable environment.

This workable plan should defuse the timed bomb of when will the first spark go off igniting an Arab spring in this country or another? Such a spark that almost everybody fears for the reasons mentioned previously. With this, everybody, particularly the government and the suspects, have participated in the rescue plan, or say tolerance plan.

#### **5.4 The Day After**

When the workable plan succeeds, the wise may suggest then that the government may found a public welfare fund and put all the returned money in it. All this should go together with legislation reforms plan that will be the guarantor for not going to that corruption era once again or even robbing the very welfare fund we have just talked about. The returned money which seems to be a large amount will push the economy further to the positive indicators.

#### **Benefit**

This tolerance plan can rescue the whole country, which has these types of problems, from slipping into the inevitable path of chaos and bloodshed. It will also bring life to the country's economy, give people trust in the future of their children, enhance the stability, investment attracting environment, and the very coexistence of people all on their soil.

#### **6. Conclusion**

A thorough look at the political situation in some countries which are now candidate for the next Arab spring, one can easily conclude that a tolerance plan is urgently needed before things arrive at a point of no return. By implementing such a plan, the state regains popularity and its social influence. Suitable life is also regained for all parties, and a peaceful environment exists which insures happiness to all people in the country.

Although, this paper may look good for many developing countries in the World, but it is directed mainly to Arab countries that may face the Arabian Spring and the solution is coming from within the region's conventions and culture as started of a verse from the Holy Quran.

The research did not take into consideration the link between developing countries in the Arab world affected by Arabian Spring and their effects on the developed countries. Therefore, this issue needs more elaboration.

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