



The Volume and Persistence of Religious Salafist Violence in the Novel "Amarat Yaqoubian" by Alaa Al-Aswani: A Sociological Approach

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Introduction

“Ted Robert Gurr” defines relative deprivation as the main cause of collective violence defining it as the difference between the value expectations of humans and their value abilities. He introduces descending, ascending, and ambitious deprivation patterns as the elements resulting in political violence. He believes that ideologies can mobilize people for political violence. Relative deprivation theory by "Ted Robert Gurr" can be divided into two parts relative deprivation formation and deprivation resources and the appearance of the deprivation in the form of collective political violence. This study aims to investigate the political violence phenomenon and extremism and its continuity in fictional characters from the perspective of “Ted Robert Gurr” in the novel “Yacoubian Building” by Alaa-Al-Aswany. In this way, the reader can examine this phenomenon while becoming familiar with the author's view about the situation of Egypt and how he has generated the meaning. On the other hand, the reader can answer the following questions: • What is the main cause of violence and Salafism among characters of the “Yacoubian Building” story?

- Which one of the deprivations has been reflected in the basis of the story?
- What is the level and continuity of violence among fictional characters?

Methodology

This study has been conducted based on the descriptive-analytical method and library studies. In this study, the modern Salafism phenomenon has been reflected with a violent mixture before its appearance in the political-social scene of Egypt in the novel "Yacoubian Building" by Alaa-Al-Aswany, the

Egyptian writer. The base of this study relies on the theory of "Ted Robert Gurr" with emphasis on the relative deprivation theory to find the violence causes. Findings "Ted Robert Gurr" considers political, economic, and social deprivation as the main cause for social dissatisfaction introducing the background of political conflicts and ideological thoughts as other factors that can mitigate or intensify the violence and Salafism. The mentioned factors are investigated in the studied novel.

1. Economic deprivation and dissatisfaction
 - 1.1. The conflict between poverty and wealth (class antagonism) "Aswany" illustrates the unsettled economic conditions in society based on his successful literary experience. He narrates the story of "Taha Shazli" to show that the poverty people experience is the result of injustice and indifference of governors voicing his protest to the audiences with great courage. With such courage, Aswany indicates that dealing with poverty is not just a problem of not being wealthy that can be ignored. He reveals a considerable number of fictional characters becoming victims of society hunters to earn a living.
 - 1.2. Economic corruption and bribery With a pure commitment, "Aswany" talks about social diseases affecting various layers of society making it weak and defective. Similar to a disaster, bribery has affected the lives of people: "Abdul Shahid, the lawyer, would do anything for money." (Aswany, 2003: 24) and lower layers of the society but is seen also among governors and officials. This disgusting behavior of governors hurts the society weakening it.
2. Deprivation and social dissatisfaction
 - 2.1. Failing to achieve dreams Taha Shazli's deprivation from being a police and failure in achieving this dream is ambitious. He showed his capabilities in realizing his expectations in the best way but social conditions prevented him from achieving his dreams and expectations. He never thought his attempts remain fruitless. Yes! "Taha Shazli" had many dreams but none of them came true. Such failure provided the field for the influence of the radical group "Muslim Brotherhood" on him.
 - 2.2. Moral corruption The crisis-stricken and chaotic society of the "Yacoubian Building" is a secure and proper environment for the advent of moral deviations. In addition to men who abuse women preventing them from having a normal life, they are interested in having relationships with young boys. The mentioned cases have led to insecurity and chaos in the society. Hatam Rashid one of the famous people in this group, a famous journalist sang with a glass of wine in his hands, drunk and hugging his young boyfriend at night.
3. Deprivation and political dissatisfaction
 - 3.1. Lack of democracy The liberalist thought of the writer is full of the fight against powerful authorities and the

destroying pressures imposed by political powers. He narrates that the sky of Egypt is covered by clouds of oppression and cruelty masking the sun of justice so that the claimed democracy remained just an illusion. Hence, he considers such governance the source of failure and poverty. 3.2. Election fraud "Aswany" criticizes the Egyptian community in his novel. He reveals the political corruption of the governance and governors introducing it as the reason for people's humility. This humiliation drags people from the peak of glory to the pit of humiliation. "Kamal Fooli" is a sample of the influence of political relations and corruption in Egypt. Fooli is the chief of elections in Egypt determining the approval or disqualification of candidates, but his duty is not based on justice. He takes bribes from candidates electing them in an unfair condition regardless of competition.

3.3. Torture and abuse "Aswany" narrates the torture and painful moans of Egyptians who fight to escape from the intangible prison of government. "Taha Shazli" is one of the famous political oppositions who joined a party associated with the Brotherhood to admire freedom, but the government does not hear his voice and ignores his demands choosing the strategy of suppression and use of force. They arrest him in his room at midnight sending him to prison and torturing him many times. 3.4. Participating in the Persian Gulf War As reported in history, Iraq attacked Kuwait in an unfair war in 1990 and made other Arab countries take a position in this war. Egypt defended Kuwait and took the opposite position against Iraq. In this case, as the outcome of ups and downs, dreams, pains, and regrets of any human community, were highly influenced by such fratricidal battles directing writers towards specific novels and stories. The stormy disaster that occurred in these two Muslim countries influenced the narration and storytelling of Aswany. 4. Ideological drivers causing violence and Salafism "Taha Shazli" who was looking for capital and wealth took steps to find professional and right values- that was Jihad against government- after knowing "Sheikh Shaker." His financial dreams were replaced with faith and beliefs spending his money to achieve the ideological dreams of the group accompanied by Sheikh. He protested along with his faithful brothers and sisters and started his radical actions for oppressive regime change. 5. Salafism, violence, and its continuity In the novel "Yacoubian Building," the writer showed how social deprivations and dissatisfactions, discriminations and class antagonism, political corruption, repressing protesters, and lack of facilitation in a government led to radicalism

with conspiracy and assassination. The continuity of violence in the novel indeed starts with dissatisfaction. In the next phase, this political dissatisfaction results in terrorist groups and operations. The actions taken in the novel occur during a half day and end with the death of some people from two groups, including a senior officer and "Taha Shazli."

Conclusion

In the novel "Yacoubian Building," characters suffer from poverty and economic deprivations caused by the government's inability to bring justice. Poverty provides the field for offense, corruption, and serious social diseases leading to radicalism, anger, and Salafism of the "Muslim Brotherhood" group regarding other factors of deprivation. • Political deprivation appears in the form of prosecution, prison, torture, murder of political figures, fraud in elections, cooperation with the UAS in the war with Iraq, and so forth. Such unsettled and corrupt space allows incompetent and selfinterested individuals to become ministers worsening the conditions, while awake and intellectual figures lose any chance of opposition in an anxious and fearful atmosphere. • Social, political, and economic dissatisfaction and ideological tastes empower the force of will and motivation in some personalities making them brave to protest against suppression and deprivation. As the senior officer of the government is one of the characters that has created such deprivations, especially political deprivation, they organize a terror conspiracy against him. However, the case ends with the murder of individuals from both sides, including Taha and a senior officer. The level of terror includes a half day of the novel's time.

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