

March 14 needs to lead or get out of the way

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Lebanon is at a crucial inflection point

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That Lebanon is at a crucial inflection point in its short history as an independent republic is clear to all players. Two irreconcilable forces are pulling at its weak social, political and economic fabric from diametrically opposite directions.

The current government, represented by the March 14 political gathering, can best be described as the camp whose vested interest is in the preservation of the status quo. They express the belief in an independent Lebanon but are content with (i) the traditional "feudal" make up of the political sphere, (ii) withhold their support from the forces that wish to depart from the sick and undemocratic confessional system (iii) have failed to adopt measures to reflect any commitment to law and order and (iv) have over two years a record that stands out by its lack of accomplishments in any field.

The opposition on the other hand, as represented by Hezbollah and its allies is at best a mixture of dissatisfied and disgruntled has been traditional "feudal" lords (Arslan, Franjeh and Karami), a delusional General (Aoun) and an ideologically bankrupt religious party established, funded and trained by Iranian Mullahs in order to promote the idea of Wilayat Al Faqih and wage war against Israel.

The opposition, especially Hezbollah, has no interest in the establishment of a democratic state, economic prosperity, personal liberty or peaceful co-existence with Israel. Each of the above is a move that raises major obstacles in establishing a theocratic state whose only objective is to wage war. Democracy implies accountability, economic prosperity makes waging war more expensive, personal liberty forces upon society diversity and peaceful coexistence nullifies the need for martyrdom and war.

It should be abundantly clear based on the above that the Hezbollah led opposition in Lebanon has no interest in promoting a modern Lebanese state and as a result all efforts to reach a compromise or establish a constructive dialogue should be seen for what they are: a total waste of effort since no one should entertain positive results when the two groups in question are as incongruous as any incongruity can be.

So what is to be done under such circumstances? The solution is self evident or at least it should be since the above circumstances constitute a clear case for the application of Neo Hegelian dialectics. When two ideas are antithetical then the synthesis has to be a total rejection of the backward and absurd option; the Hezbollah ideology; and the rejection of the stifling and archaic ideas held by the other group.

It is time that March 14 forces reassess their strategy and work assiduously for the inevitability of an outcome that promotes a society based on the rule of law, rejects the opposition's demand to flaunt sovereignty and to announce the formation of a truly national and secular political party with a detailed program to rid the country of the all pernicious disease of confessionalism which has been gnawing at the Lebanese fabric for over sixty years.

Unless the current Lebanese government can find the courage to undertake courageous acts demanded by the times then history will not be kind in its judgment. To have witnessed a wrong and not acted is to have acquiesced. That is not any different than to have aided and abetted the opposition in achieving its goal of supplanting the aspirations of peaceful, democratic and freedom loving citizens.

The Nobel Laureate Eli Wiesel never tires of emphasizing that "to be silent and indifferent is the greatest sin of all time" because to be silent once you have seen injustice is to be an accomplice to these evil acts. Actually a strong case can be made that the current cabinet led by PM Siniora has done just that. Its inactions and continued "silence" have been major contributors to the standoff which has allowed the opposition to achieve most of the goals that they have aspired for.

Source: Ya Libnan Exclusive

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