

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW

## MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES

[ISSN 2581-5369]

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Volume 3 | Issue 1

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2020

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# Protest in 21st century

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## ABSTRACT

*99% percent of modern world that we know today is the result of people showing their discontent with the present conditions. Protest has changed the world. It has always been the most powerful weapon of revolution known to mankind. From the dawn of human life on planet earth the protest, rebellion has been the constant companion of humans. Protests in 21st century all around the world have also observed the concept of breach of promise i.e. 'when anyone enters in an agreement or changing conditions lead to an agreement or contract irrevocability due to time constraint or individual needs etc. it leads draining of our resources to our partner making him overpower in combination and finally hostile and aggressive with self centric decisions. Author through this essay revisits the history of start of rebellion in the world and analyses the psychology behind the protests using protests in 21st century as the main theme.*

Protest: **Noun:** Meaning: A strong complaint expressing disagreement, disapproval, or opposition.

99% percent of modern world that we know today is the result of people showing their discontent with the present conditions. Change is often considered as a gift from the leaders to the commoners but has change ever been really possible without struggle and sacrifice of those from below. From wealthy barons taking over arbitrary kings to having to fight for believing in one's god. Protest has changed the world. It has always been the most powerful weapon of revolution known to mankind. From the dawn of human life on planet earth the protest, rebellion has been the constant companion of humans. In fact, the Christian mythical definition of beginning of life on earth is based on rebellion. If it wasn't for the Eve rebelling against gods and taking bite of the forbidden fruit it wouldn't have been possible for us to see the light of the day.

Even though there are protest are long known to history of man. The first remarkable protest recorded is of between the two communities of Christianity. Date back to 15<sup>th</sup> century. This rebellion started with a German monk who was unhappy with the corrupt practices of church in the name of religion. Martin Luther started rebelling against the methods of church in 1517

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by nailing "95 Theses" on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany - these theses were a list of statements that expressed Luther's concerns about certain Church practices - largely the sale of indulgences, but they were based on Luther's deeper concerns with Church doctrine. In his words faith alone led him towards reformation.

21<sup>st</sup> century has not been a very auspicious time for democracies of the world from latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century democracies had taken root in the most difficult circumstances possible— in Germany, which had been traumatized by Nazism, in India, which had the world's largest population of poor people, and, in the 1990s, in South Africa, which had been disfigured by apartheid. Decolonialisation created a host of new democracies in Africa and Asia, and autocratic regimes gave way to democracy in Greece (1974), Spain (1975), Argentina (1983), Brazil (1985) and Chile (1989). The collapse of the Soviet Union created many fledgling democracies in central Europe. By 2000 Freedom House, an American think-tank, classified 120 countries, or 63% of the world total, as democracies. As the core grievance in a widespread emergency of political framework the interest for genuine popular government is counter presented by numerous protestors by formal delegate vote based system which is progressively blamed for serving elites and private interests.

Protests in 21<sup>st</sup> century all around the world have also observed the concept of breach of promise i.e. 'when anyone enters in an agreement or changing conditions lead to an agreement or contract irrevocability due to time constraint or individual needs etc. it leads draining of our resources to our partner making him overpower in combination and finally hostile and aggressive with self centric decision. So, the loose control of 'Entry and exit time" or unwanted activities between the contractual time with no or delusional knowledge on " actual demand" rather just continuous partnerships or affiliation/cooperative assignment for protection of state. This concept can be solidified by taking past as well as recent examples. British rule over the world or recent ANTI CAA protests in India both have been based on concept of timing and demand and breach of promise.

In the later half of 2000 years grey areas in financial institutions were cropped up which rose issues of food riots giving rise to austerity protest which found its way across major countries. The protestors were focused on the idea of convergence of political agendas and economic development being tied together in country's welfare. Industrialisation and global market place has paved way loan time for people to understand the repercussions of mounting debts, inequality iteration and neglecting by working people to grasp changes. But responsiveness towards these movements have been surprising. Wherein countries like Lebanon has seen great

results through mass protests. Masses of countries like china, Iraq and north Korea have been on the struggling edge of no attention despite the longevity of dispute protestors have seen.

From French revolution to Gandhi salt march and religious protests in India all dissent has the regular components like agitation, disappointment, selfish intentions and struggle of thoughts. Protest is a characteristic articulation of discontent in public arena empowering public to introduce their claims that are not being tended to. In circumstances when the democracy is powerless or the state needs ability to intervene between contending requests, the danger of popularity based breakdown or inversion is ever present. Where the state is in danger with the threat of democratic collapse or reversion by social protest, it may choose to adopt more authorial methods to safeguard their position resulting in amplification of grievances which in return increase the threat to public peace by the tool of violence.

Analyzing the psychology behind the protest the experts suggest that the heart and soul of every protest are grievances. Be they the experience of illegitimate inequality, feelings of relative deprivation, feelings of injustice, moral indignation about some state of affairs, or a suddenly imposed grievance. Grievances resulting from violated principles refer to moral outrage because it is felt that important values or principles are violated. In more general terms, intergroup conflicts can be framed as conflicts about principles or conflicts around material interests.

This differentiation is significant with regards to rebellion in the light of the fact that in an irresponsible event individuals are increasingly disposed to take an instrumental course to dissent, to uphold charges while a contention of standards more probable prompts dissents in which an individual express their perspectives and ire. If grievance is the heart of a protest, identity crisis and group based emotions are the body of that protest. Outrage can be coined as the prototypical emotion in a protest. , it is hard to conceive of protest detached from anger. Van Zomeren et al. (2004) show that group-based anger is an important motivator of protest participation of disadvantaged groups. Anger moves people to adopt a more challenging relationship with authorities than subordinate emotions such as shame and despair<sup>2</sup> or fear<sup>3</sup>. In explaining different tactics, efficacy appears to be relevant too. Group-based anger is mainly observed in normative actions where efficacious people protest. However, in no normative violent actions contempt appears to be the more relevant emotion<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Taylor, 2009

<sup>3</sup> Klandermans et al., 2008

<sup>4</sup> Fischer and Roseman, 2007; Tausch et al., 2008

Struggling for rights has become a tradition and protests its tool. Protest around the world from centuries have gifted us with many amenities of the modern world which now we have taken for granted. If it weren't for the Indians protesting for their independence from British rule we wouldn't have been the developing nation that we are today or if weren't for the black people protesting against slave culture, we still would have continued with the inhuman culture of slavery and exploitation of basic human rights of people. Protest has been a catalyst for the development of the world in both ethical and economical sense. They have been a ray of hope in the dark dark era of communalism, climatic changes, and exploitation of human rights, corruption and deterioration of humanity of the world.