

“DEMOCRACY ESTABLISHMENT IN MONGOLIA AND ITS LESSON FOR THE OTHERS”

Bayasakh J.

Prof, Sc.D

Director

Institute of International Affairs
Mongolian Academy of Sciences

Last August Mongolia celebrated its the 26th anniversary of the democratic establishment. For the history of any nation it too short, but for Mongolia it was a great time. It changed her society and political and economic reforms were gained and completely changed it. Nowadays a few countries in

Asia has a parliamentary system; Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, India and Myanmar. In a future if the North Korea will have change her political system may be the Mongolian experience will acceptable for them.

I am here and will deliver a paper which might be interesting for you dear colleagues!

HOW WE CHOOSE THE DEMOCRACY?

In mid - 1980's when the Soviet Union gained the “Perestroika” it made the socialist system to be turnover and declined the whole socialism establishment and it socialist orientation of development.

We also under that change in the world we chose to have democracy as a main stream for it future development. During the socialism we got cosmetic development but in it deep inside we did not opened a real development and we stuck in deep crisis and did not have a view for future development.

Ideal of communism future we passed the socialism throughout we lost our legacy which comes to us by centuries. All best things which we got from the past were black labeled and marked as old fashion and undeveloped. During making the step forward passing the capitalism to the socialism we repressed 18 thousands elite of Mongolian society black labeled them as feudal class and divide into the two types black (public servants an noble) and yellow (mostly monks or lamas) feudal and 30000 of them were killed or repressed and theirs property were confiscated several times. With this repression the public servants and statehood tradition were destroyed completely and state establishment start use the Soviet model of statehood which was wrong and primitive in it nature. We moved from old society into the darkest future with it unpredictable uncertainty. With the several decades of uncer-

tainty we moved into the stupid stuck and lost many precious things which like own letter or alphabet, freedom of speech and expression and belief and faith and national identity value. That was not an ordinary fall to the angle. That was a kind of passage to the bright future which was created by mankind throughout its historical development named a democracy and it only one genuine development model for the mankind development.

ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE DEMOCRACY DEVELOPMENTS

Democracy developments in Mongolia in 26 years have some advantages and disadvantages. As the natural development gained in the inside of the society it have advantages more rather that disadvantages which we had sometime. Democracy gained in Mongolia was happen throughout of the democratic revolution in 1990. It was happened. It's like stream of river which connected with a main streamline of river which flows to forward and never stops in the middle while it happened.

What we got during last 26 years in the politics, economy, social and cultural sphere, national security and foreign policy or internal and external policy we can describe the following things:

POLITICS;

- the Democratic revolution of 1990 gained without any violence and it start with putting the peaceful negotiation as a main tool. It starts peacefully and lasts also peacefully and ended without any violence and blood sheet. That was remarkable in the modern history of mankind.
- Multiparty system was established and the parliamentary system of governing was accepted.

The first democratic constitution was adopted in 1992 by the Mongolian parliament and it proclaimed Mongolia will built civic and democratic society with multiparty and parliamentary system of governing. Since that time the democracy and pluralism became a reality and nowadays over 6 thousands NGO established and operated in all over Mongolia.

- Democracy gave to the Mongolian people freedom of speech, publicity and expression of their opinion and faith and belief and got freedom in the practice of their religious custom. The freedom indicator is a higher than in the both neighbors situation.
- The Mongolians even during crisis difficult time did not turn back from eco-

conomic reforms and stand for it changes.

- Election system became more flexible and improved during past 26 years and the nation get a free election advanced system which not exists in our two neighbors.

ECONOMICS:

- During the past 26 years the Mongolians got a private entity, freedom of go to the outside world and freedom of life. Also the first time in the history rural population received their domestic livestock or animals and urban population received their apartments by free. Nowadays Mongolian livestock the first time reached 52 mln.
- Land reforms also started in Mongolia. The pasture for livestock still a state owned. The rest of land at cities and small establishments given to the locals by free and it made the ordinary peoples life wealthy and improved their livelihood.
- The domestic economy became an internationalized it also improved the people life standard. Per capita and PPP indicator got increased by year by a year.
- Last 10 year the life of people who lives at remote places increased than life of urban places and poverty level during last 5 year dropped from 38 percent into the 21percent.
- 70 percent of economy belongs to the private sector and state ownership decreased and the private sector became a main engine of the economy of state.

SOCIO - CULTURAL SPHERE

- With a victory of the Democratic revolution the Mongolians received the re-birth of tradition and customs, traditional knowledge and cultural heritage and the national identity recovered. Some traditional holidays like the Lunar New Year or "Tsagaan Sar" was forbidden by the 4-5 decades and people start to celebrate it officially had 2-3 days of vacation at the end of January or early February, which depends on the lunar calendar calculation. During the socialism it black labeled and named old feudal holiday and during that days people had political events or political newspaper reading or meetings and nobody except the herdsman could to celebrate it, because that day named "the collective farmers day" or "herdsman day" that was a festival those who works at the "collective farm (negdel)" and herds the socialist social or collective

property.

- The Mongolians have a right to get free education, healthcare and could do own business and have own property in general the Mongolians were developed as human being.
- High technology was opened for Mongolia as a democratic state and the barrier which were forbidden for the eastern block states or COMECON. Mongolia was one of the Eastern Block countries or pro –Soviet block state with the socialist orientation and Marxist-Leninist ideology.
- Since that changes we start talk the liberal or western value like the human right and market economy competition and private property and western political values and the new generation already accepted it.
- The Mongolians got the rebirth of Buddha or Buddhism, namely Lamaism. Also other religions entered to newly opened Mongolia. Now number of Christianity and Islam believers increased and dozen churches and mosk were opened. The traditional Mongolian religion also got the second rebirth and the numbers of shamans and believers increased year by year, because the praying used the Mongolians native tongue and it easy to understand for followers rather than the Lamaism which used classic written Tibetan and Sanskrit which is hard to understand for followers. All this happened with having the religious freedom which came after the Democratic Revolution victory in 1990.
- Now Mongolia creating a secular society.
- Nationalism became a main ideology. After the ideological pressure and we first time could freely talk about our a great ancestor Chinggis (Genggis) khaan and made our own remark on his role in the nation's history and now we proud of him. Before 1990 the Soviet Union and our ideologists and authority judge that Chinggis khaan was an aggressor and dictator of the Mongol-Tatar domination of the world. Those who note about him as a great person of history became the enemy of society and labeled as a nationalist and anti-socialist element.
- Mongolia first time apologies the nation for the political terror which took place during the socialist era (1920-1940's). All political victims were rehabilitated. Some of victims or their children compensation materially. These rehabilitation process still lasts now.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY

I wrote a dozen articles and most of it published in many languages and delivered some dozen papers on international conferences and gave a lecture on that subject in many distinguished universities all over the world.

I may say: we got a great success in that direction. Mongolia in 1993 proclaimed it a single state a nuclear weapon free status and also released the foreign policy and national security concepts. Now we declared the second foreign policy (2011) and national security concepts(2010) it have some changes than the first concepts due to the changes which took place in duration between the first and second concept release.

In our foreign policy concept in two editions noted Mongolia gave the priority in it foreign policy to the two direct neighbors and the third neighbor which is USA and other Europe-Asia Pacific developed states including Germany, Japan, ROK and etc. As I wrote we should develop our foreign policy not only on vertical level, we should also develop our relation on horizontal level too (1, pp. 17-37) to have EU on the West and Japan, Korea and USA on the Asia and Pacific or the East. We should think what kind foreign policy we should have: liberal or neutral. That might be a big dilemma for the foreign policy decision makers?

- Mongolia organized the Democracy Summit in 2012 at Ulaanbaatar. Democracy and newly democracy established 106 states leaders participated on it. That was a world -wide recognition of Mongolia's democracy and Mongolia was the democracy pre-summit organizer or leader of that huge gathering.

Recently in 2016, Mongolia hosted ASEM summit for the first time in Mongolian history 53 states head, Presidents and Prime Ministers had paid visit to Mongolia. It was the biggest gathering since Mongolia viewed after the Great Mongol Empire at 1206.

Therefore, democratic changes in Mongolia became well known state after the Chinggis khaan and his grand son Khubilai Secen Khaan during Yuan Empire.

CONCLUSION

American scholar Paula L.W. Sabloff wrote a book titled "Does everyone want Democracy? (Insights from Mongolia)" by Walnut Creek, California in 2013. She wrote:" On final note, I would add that although anthropologists and some political scientists like the ones quoted ...recognize that people define democracy differently, some social scientists express the hope that all nations will adopt liberal democracy. Some even bemoan the fact that uniformity in democratic ideas and practice will never be achieved. This research suggests that there will alwaysbe different versions of democracy. Yet these differences do not block people from connecting democratic governance with some universal emotions and deeply held values that important to

them. There does not need to be a universal definition or practice of democracy for this to take place. Indeed, national and cultural differences will always figure into people's thoughts. Democracy can and should remain malleable. If people ideas and practices of democracy ever become uniform, it will be because they are imposed some overarching administration.

Should that happen, there will be no democracy at all" (2, pp.204-205).I am agree with Paula Sabloff point there no universal model for democracy it different in many places like Mongolia, but it the universal value for mankind it might different like liberal democracy and etc.

During last 26 year the Mongolians stand for democracy and we should make our election system more advanced and work on transparency and improve a good governance and pay more attention to develop not only mining industry in which we are very much dependent, also we need develop other field of economy like agriculture and cattle husbandry and light industry and infrastructure.

Notes:

1. Bayasakh.J.K, Foreign policy and national security,UB.,2010,pp.17-37
2. Paula L.W. Sabloff, Does Everyone Want Democracy? Insights from Mongolia, Walnut Creek, California,2013