

# GUNNING FOR THE TOP

**T**here are two extremes known to both the laymen and the learned, and these are the bottom and the top. There are other objects that can be used for the purpose of clarification, and one of them is the ladder, which has both the head and the tail or the top and the bottom as the case may be. In human political settings, which is a function of the establishment of a state where power is expected to be generated and used for the purpose of meeting the needs of the citizens, the idea of both the top and the bottom is well known. Understandably, these two extremes, by reason of qualifications and merit, have been accepted as a norm by all citizens over a period of time. Man, also over a period of time, has had to grapple with the idea of choosing between what is right and what is wrong. This problem of what is right and what is wrong has to a large extent, been accepted to be a function of religion. Nevertheless, society has come to terms with certain values born out of either religious or cultural beliefs of what is considered moral and immoral, and from where the understanding of what is right and what is wrong has evolved.

The state ideally is supposed to originate from certain rules and regulations known as the constitution as well as the recognition for accountability, which can be a product of a democratic process as we have it today in the election of representatives who are to occupy the state and who also are to be guided by the rules and laws of the country. The rules and regulations, which in other words are referred to as the constitution of any country, are to serve as a constraint against abuse of office and the possession of excessive powers. In spite of this systematic

approach to governance, the tendency for the abuse of power as well as a disregard for rules and regulations has not been completely eradicated. These are therefore the causative of the problems that we have as illegal behavior and conduct, which include corruption, nepotism, favoritism, and the lack of capacity and capability to generate power and achieve for the people those things that are essential for their daily livelihood as well as peaceful coexistence.

From the above, we can see that a platform has been established where power is to be generated for the purpose of meeting the needs of the citizens of a given country, but over a period of time, we realize the illegality that has crept into the well-established system of governance leading to autocracy and tyranny. The jettisoning of the acceptable way of getting to the top of the ladder is nothing other than an invitation for unrest and other social upheavals, which in turn, over the period of time, have eroded the principle of the social contract.

Most countries of the world today fit in for description as failed states, not because their leaders lack the legitimacy of leading as well as the established laws that are to serve as constraints, but because the society itself has been upturned by certain elements of corrupt practices caused by the role of the lobbyists as well as other personal factors that have upturned the established lines of action by both the leaders and the followers, making the states that we have become vulnerable and ineffective in the discharge of its constitutional obligations to the people.

In a real and modern state, the rules of law as well as the process of electing leaders to positions that grant

legitimacy have become a shadow of themselves thereby serving as a shaky foundation that cannot hold the building that is supposed to stand firm on it. What obtains in our world today for the most part is the existence of states that either will not generate enough power to meet the legal obligations of the state to the people or those that can generate powers for the negative use such as cohesion, subjugation, and domination of the citizens. This accounts for what we have today in the forms of agitations and the tendency for terrorist behavior against innocent citizens as a way of making a point to those at the top who ordinarily were not listening to the yearnings and the cries of the people they govern. The acts of terrorism therefore are motivated by so many factors, which have their foundation in disaffection emanating from poor governance and the need by the people to express their feelings in negative ways that are considered helpful to them in making their feelings known and with a view to achieving their goals.

***The poor and the oppressed in a failed state, rather than looking up to the state for elevation and improvement and climbing meritoriously and peacefully through the ranks and files to the top, have chosen terrorism and other acts of insubordination as the instruments of gunning for the top.***

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