

# Traditional Dream of Sri Lankans and Chinese Assistance to Become a Developed Nation

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The major dream of Sri Lankans people since gaining independence in 1948 from the Western colonial rule was to become a developed nation which could deliver the prosperity to citizens of the country. The evidence in history indicated that the economic policy of monarchical reigns of the country accomplished the expectations of people within a limited framework. Despite the stories of the past the society was reasonably aligned to a seclusion format, in which the expectations of people were bounded to basic needs. The ethnic groups in the country also restricted to few and they did not demonstrate the desires of dividing the country with the supports of foreign or internal forces. In such a background Sinhala kings satisfied the anticipation of people although there was a minor opposition to the style of rule at that time.

Historical evidence further confirms that Buddhism as the major religion of the country played a central and critical role to unite people and guided the political authority to make right economic policies, justice in administration, cultural development and advancement of civilization with a system of concrete social values. The Buddhist philosophy focuses to control the desires of people, encouraged sharing the wealth and looking after poor. People in the historical society were listening to religious guidance and attempted to implement religious principles in the day to day life of people. The Buddhist philosophy effectively contributed to manage the country as a peaceful state, and guided Sinhala kings to follow the ruling quality, which was called "Dasa Raja Dharmaya", which was equal to the good governance.

However, the peaceful political, economic and cultural environment of Sri Lanka was challenged by Indian invaders who attempted to destroy the economic, political, social and cultural stability of the country. The different kinds of invaders such as Sena, Guththika, Elara and Maga arrived from the South Indian provinces attempted to destroy Sri Lanka with own agendas

which had vicious elements against Sinhala people and the country attempted to destabilize the country by economic, cultural, social and religious destructions. There was no evidence that ruling governments at that times in India supported to those invaders, but later especially after the independence in 1948, provides clear evidence that the Indian government directly involved in disturbing Sri Lanka's administration creating the LTTE terrorist movement with the financial supports. Now Sri Lanka has faced to another type of terrorism, which is based on Islamic attitudes, but the face of it and personnel behind it quite difficult to identify and understand. Terrorism in the country clearly rooted from the historical events and to achieve economic dreams, it needs elimination of vicious elements in relation to religious and races.

As a result of Indian influences, the dream of people of Sri Lanka visibly backward in many occasions. The current challenge of the country is defeating the divisive attitudes of people with a view to achieving the major dream of people. In order to convert the dream to a reality, Sri Lanka desperately needs a broader support from the outside without aligning to power blocs in the world as Sri Lanka needs to value trade relations with all countries if they are purely organized for economic purposes. Sri Lanka has a very small market inside with a higher percentage of population with lower income and the quality of production and services of the country need to be improved to international level with the supports of the outside world. The revenue base and the economic machine remain within few entrepreneurs who can rotate the entire politics of the country. The current market conditions also indicate that Sri Lanka cannot be a strong industrial nation without competitively exportable high-quality products, but the country has a strong potential to be a nation with high quality services such as real estate, financial, fuel supply, leisure, tourism and many others. After the 2015 Presidential and general elections it seems that India and

Western nations have failed to help Sri Lanka as promised before the elections to realize the dream of people. According to public statements of politicians, India secretly influenced to defeat the Rajapaksa regime, which especially concerned on achieving development targets associating with China. The current official economic statistics demonstrate that Sri Lanka's economic achievements have transposed to a lower level and the foreign forces targeted to defeat the Rajapaksa regime with a view to break the association with China rather than taking personal revenge from the Rajapaksa family. The governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka at that time stated that the country was desperately needed the support of China and the country is in a difficult situation to find large scale investors, who can support to get out from current problems. In fact, during the election period, the current regime ruthlessly criticized China without knowing the truth about the economic strength of China and now they are gradually realizing the fact that China can honestly help Sri Lanka's people to achieve the traditional dream. International news of CNN published that China was becoming to replace USA in international aid, the total Chinese aid from the year 2000 to 2014 was US \$ 354 billion of which a large quantum of aid has gone to African

nations where combinedly received US \$ 32 billion for 704 projects. Many African countries with rich mining resources were under the rule of European countries, which indiscriminately exploited them but never provided such huge economic supports. An assistant professor of Politics at the University of British Columbia found in a research, China provides more attractive economic supports to developing countries because no political strings attached to Chinese aid which quickly and efficiently disbursed than the assistance from Western nations. The current Chinese Leader Xi Jinping initiated many changes in the Chinese economy after election to the leadership in 2012 and China's political conference in 2017, Mr. Xi Jinping clearly indicated that opening its economy further to the world and CNN pointed out that "Huge sums are also expected to be channeled into Xi's grand plan for building up roads, ports and other infrastructure along the historic "silk road" trading routes across Asia, Europe and Africa. Dubbed the belt and road initiative it aims to create a growing trade network with China at its heart." However, now we can see that there is a trade war between China and USA and dynamism in the world has changed the people were comprehended several years before. China has played a critical role in Asian

