

THE EVOLVING WORLD OF POLITICS WHAT HAS CHANGED: OUR POLITICAL WORLD WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

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So many things has happened in the world of politics in the last 10 years, to be precise since 2005 there have been series of activities bringing about unprecedented changes around the world of politics and economy. in this my series of writing on the Theme "Political Life" I would be looking at historic and current trending of social changing political actions and in-action that has lead to the current paradigm-shift in many countries democracies and the global space.

In this first edition i would be writing on the topic; "Our Political World what has happened" focus here would be centred on few key significant trends that have helped to re-shape the political thinking and landscape.

Before i proceed on my stated topic, it is important to start by defining the very meaning of the whole subject matter, what is a "Political Life". what does it mean to have a political life, in a world where many do not understand the spirituality of politics and politicking.

Taking the definition as stated by the great Greek philosopher Plato, he said and i quote "A Political Life is Life in the Polity" in his widely acknowledged book the "Republic" he went on to state further on His ultimate answer to the question "Who am I?" is not an "egoistic animal" or an "independent variable," as the twentieth century behavioural researcher blatantly might say, but an "immortal soul, corrupted by vice and purified by virtue, of whom the body is only an instrument"

An expert political knowledge for him should include not only knowledge of things out there, but also knowledge of oneself. This is because whoever is ignorant of himself will also be ignorant of others and of political things, and, therefore, will never be an expert politician . Those who are ignorant will go wrong, moving from one misery to another. For them history will be a tough teacher, but as long they do not recognize themselves and practice virtue, they will learn nothing. Plato's good society is impossible without transcendence, without a link to the perfect being who is God, the true measure of all things.

There are other forms of definition quotes such as the ones by Aristotle and John Mills.

"Politicians also have no leisure, because they are always aiming at something beyond political life itself, power and glory, or happiness". Aristotle

"A party of order or stability, and a party of progress or reform, are both necessary elements of a healthy state of political life". John Stuart Mills.

Let's get on with the issues of this article, by looking at the few trends political/economic acts that has taking place in few countries around the world since 2005, with regards to changes of government, politics and economy. Though the importance of this is to give some clarity on the effect of these trends on the outcome of subsequent significant events of the period.

Key political and economic events of 2005

Mr Tony Blair the Prime Minster of Britain and leader of the Labour party in government won a second term general election and remained as the seating Prime Minister in office.

The failure of the European Constitution. By voting against the European Constitutional Treaty at a national referendum, in France caused heated debates on the

future of the European Union and member states

A terrorist act in London overshadowed the G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, and spoiled Britons' joy over London's election as the host city for the 2012 Olympics. Four explosive devices went off in the underground and a bus, leaving 50 people dead and about 700 injured.

The death of Pope John Paul II marked the end of an era in the life of the Roman-Catholic Church and modern history.

Latin America "tilted to the left" a great deal in 2005. Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Bolivia formed a new political alliance based on anti-American sentiments. Ultra radical leftist politician Evo Morales was elected president of Bolivia. The United States failed to effect any change.

Key political and economic events of 2006:

Google buys [YouTube.com](http://www.youtube.com) for \$1.6 billion. The acquisition combines one of the largest and fastest growing online video entertainment communities with Google's expertise in organizing information and creating new models for advertising on the Internet.

Pop Web – With over 100 million members, MySpace is one of the top websites in the world. YouTube streams 100 million videos. Add Blogger, Facebook, Flickr, and others and it's obvious that the thing now is that people can share everything – online. The huge expansion of the social media network around this era created a massive opening for political emancipation and publicity

Cuban President Fidel Castro transfers power indefinitely to younger brother Raul, causing all sorts of rumours about the fate of Castro and the Communist island. But this single act by Fidel Castro actually brought a gradual end to the spirit of communism in the state of Cuba, while socialism strived along the emerging powers of North-America

Key political and economic events of 2007:

Gordon Brown replaces Tony Blair as the prime minister of Great Britain (June 27).

"Let the work of change begin," said Brown in the day he was elected.

Cristina Fernández de Kirchner is elected Argentina's first woman president. She succeeds her husband, Néstor Kirchner (Oct. 28).

Bulgaria and Romania join the European Union. The European Union now has 27 member states and over half a billion people, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Black Sea.

The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia join the Schengen border-free zone.

Key political and economic events of 2008:

This period saw the emergence of the global financial crisis, the rising of the world Oil price, which rose to the benchmark of \$100 dollar per barrel for the first time in history, the era also saw the wave of political re-aliment and change of government. The 44th United States presidential election was won by Democrat Barack Obama over Republican John McCain. It was a historical moment for the US since for the first time America selected an African-American as its president. In addition, it was the first time that a Roman Catholic became the country's Vice President. The candidacy of Barack Obama raised the number of voters to the highest level in 40 years. The emergence of an African-American awakened a renewed spirit of political participation across many states in America, most especially among the Latinos and

Black Americans

Russia in 2008 chooses another president – Dmitri A. Medvedev, a former aide to Russian president Vladimir Putin, wins the presidential election in a landslide. Putin will remain in a position of power, serving as Medvedev's prime minister.

Georgia and Russia sparks of a conflict in South Ossetia, a breakaway enclave in Georgia that won de facto independence in the early 1990s. Russia enters the fray, with troops and tanks pouring into South Ossetia to support the region. Later, Russia intensifies its involvement, moving troops into Abkhazia, another breakaway region, and launching airstrikes at Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia.

The U.S and other countries got involved in the conflict as a peace mediator, and helps Georgia with humanitarian mission and conflicts resolution plans

The Death of the Russian Orthodox Leader – Patriarch Aleksy II. He was 79. The patriarch oversaw world's biggest Orthodox church, being the spiritual leader of over 140 million people. Aleksy II was the first church leader (since the Bolshevik Revolution) to be selected without the intervention of the Soviet state, which was known to have destroyed churches and monasteries, killing believers and clergy members. Despite the fact that the hierarchy of the Russian church remained, it was under strict control.

Kosovo declares independence from Serbia, announced by prime minister Hashim Thaci, Serbian prime minister Vojislav Kostunica says he would never recognize the "false state." International reaction is mixed, with the United States, France, Germany, and Britain indicating that they plan to recognize Kosovo as the world's 195th country.

It is the worst crisis since the Great Depression back in 1929. This year's global financial crisis went on up until December. The first strong signals of the crisis took place when a number of large financial companies in the United States went bankrupt in September.

The collapses of large financial institutions in the U.S. had a great impact on Europe, where a lot of banks went bankrupt. Soon it all developed into a global crisis, leading to the reduction in the market value of stock and commodities trading around the world.

High oil prices, leading to increased prices for food, global inflation, credit crisis, increased unemployment contributed to an economic recession in the world's most important economies.

The price of petroleum hits \$100 per barrel for the first time. Oil price has undergone a significant decrease of US\$145 it reached in July 2008. On December 23, 2008, WTI crude oil spot price fell to US\$30.28 a barrel.

Key political and economic events of 2009:

Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th, and first African American, President of the United States. Moreover, in October 2009, Obama was named the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize laureate "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples." Obama accepted the prize in Oslo. In a 36-minute speech, he discussed the tensions between war and peace and the idea of a "just war" Russia shuts off all gas supplies to Europe through Ukraine. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin publicly endorses the move and urges greater international involvement in the energy dispute. Russia provides approximately a quarter of the natural gas consumed in the European Union; approximately 80% of those exports travel through pipelines across Ukrainian soil prior to arriving in the EU.

Albania and Croatia are admitted to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Israel–Gaza conflict also known as the Gaza War was a three-week armed conflict that took place in the Gaza Strip and Southern Israel during the winter of 2008–2009. The Gaza war aim was to destroy the military infrastructure of HAMAS leader in Gaza. Israel responded to Hamas “Operation Oil Stain” rocket fire with military force in an action titled “Operation Cast Lead”.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is knocked to the ground and hit in the face after a political rally in Milan, Italy. An attacker hurled a statuette at Italian Premier striking the leader in the face. The attacker is a 42-year-old Massimo Tartaglia, a graphic designer with a history of mental problems. The attack occurred at a difficult political time for Berlusconi, who has been plagued by scandals.

Iran launches first domestically made satellite, Omid, into orbit. State television showed footage of the Omid (Hope) satellite being sent into space in a launch clearly timed to mark the 30th anniversary celebrations of the 1979 Islamic revolution. The launch drew criticism from the Obama administration, with a White House spokesman expressing “acute concern”.

Key political and economic events of 2010:

1. WikiLeaks An online publisher of anonymous, covert, and classified material, leaks to the public. In April 2010, WikiLeaks published gunfight footage from the 12 July 2007 Baghdad airstrike in which Iraqi civilians and journalists were killed by an Apache helicopter, as the Collateral Murder video. In July of the same year, WikiLeaks released Afghan War Diary, a compilation of more than 76,900 documents about the War in Afghanistan not previously available for public review.[10] In October 2010, the group released a package of almost 400,000 documents called the Iraq War Logs in coordination with major commercial media organisations. This allowed every death in Iraq, and across the border in Iran, to be mapped.[11] In November 2010, WikiLeaks began releasing U.S. State department diplomatic cables. The documents revealed arose tension for US government.

Oil Spill in Gulf of Mexico

On April 20, 2010 British Petroleum’s oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, killing 11 workers and commencing months of oil leaking unrestrained into the ocean. Efforts to manage the spill with controlled burning, dispersants and plugging the leak were unsuccessful until BP capped the well in mid-July, temporarily halting the flow of oil into the Gulf. The well was then successfully plugged and declared “effectively dead” on September 19. This oil spill has obtained the dubious distinction of being the worst oil spill in US history, surpassing the damage done by the Exxon Valdez tanker that spilled 11 million gallons of oil into the ecologically sensitive Prince William Sound in 1989. It is estimated that over 205 million gallons of oil were released into the Gulf.

Lech Kaczyński, The President of Poland, is among 96 killed when their airplane crash.

The 2010 Polish Air Force Tu-154 crash occurred on 10 April 2010, when a Tupolev Tu-154M aircraft of the Polish Air Force crashed near the city of Smolensk, Russia. In this terrible accident died Maria Kaczyńska, his wife and more officials of Poland.

Key political and economic events of 2011

This period in the decade saw tremendous shift and change in democracy and the dramatic end of certain wars and crisis around the world.

On January 8, The shooting of an Arizona Democratic Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords who was meeting with constituents when she and 18 others were shot at a shopping centre near Tucson. Six people were killed, including a federal judge, though Giffords, who was shot point blank in the head survived.. The shooter, 22-year-old Jared Lee Loughner, was declared incompetent to stand trial and has not revealed why he tried to kill Giffords. The incident, which took place soon after a politically divisive midterm election, prompted discussion about the heated rhetoric politicians and others employ.

Arab Spring

The protests that began in Tunisia and spread throughout the Middle East and Northern Africa eventually become known as the Arab Spring. Fuelled by unemployed young citizens and frustration with long-time leaders and corrupt police, the protests have prompted the overthrow of three leaders, in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, and the emergence of democratic process and elections. Other leaders have vowed to step down from power when their current terms end. Though the protests began as non-violent movements, peaceful demonstrations, and civil agitations for a peoples government, but notwithstanding the struggles in many countries turned out to be violent and bloody event up till date.

Soon, however, Twitter hashtags, Facebook groups, YouTube videos and Flickr streams would be employed by the masses in countries where censorship had traditionally blocked anti-government voices. Representatives of populist discontent were able to adopt and adapt new methods of communication to reach each other and outside sympathizers, often at terrible risk to their own lives and the safety of their families. Social media democracy began to take on a new meaning; a collective voice was now able to document.

Social media cannot substitute for the incredible bravery and resilience of the people who stood up to oppressive regimes, at the risk and cost of their own lives. It was the passionate desire for change and human determination that drove the spirit of the uprisings, and what ultimately achieved success in overthrowing powerful military dictatorships. In the case of the Arab Spring, the rebels' adoption of new technologies such as social media gave voice to a powerful movement, despite the censorship of the official media. Ultimately, however, it was their courage and self-sacrifice that forced the change. its struggle for the first time.

Killing of Osama bin Laden

The mastermind of the 9/11 attacks that killed about 3,000 Americans as well as other terrorist attacks was shot and killed by Navy SEALs on May 2. This singular event was considered a crucial blow to the Islamist militant group al Qaeda and one long sought after by American military since September 11. After the covert mission at a compound in Pakistan, bin Laden's remains were disposed of at sea. President Obama's decision to execute the dangerous stealth raid has been praised by military officials and described as a "gutsy call" that paid off.

Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell

After years of lobbying by liberal and gay rights groups, Congress passed a repeal of the 1993 "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Law that barred gays from openly serving in the military. The law was signed by President Obama despite protests from some military leaders, notably from the Marines, who claimed the change in policy would interrupt

service and potential weaken the military. After months of preparation, the policy was officially ended as of September 2011 and even staunch opponents of the repeal admitted no harm had come from it.

Occupy Wall Street

Protesting income inequality and corporate dominance, activists decided to camp out near New York's Wall Street. The movement spread throughout the United States and even spilled into other countries. Protesters have spent time railing against the wealthiest 1 percent and coined the slogan "We are the 99 percent." The movement, though criticized for lacking a coherent message or political goal, has helped change the political discussion from the Tea Party obsession with deficits to one of economic "fairness."

Greece debt crisis

A variety of economic factors and political decisions left Greece teetering on the edge of bankruptcy and caused a panic in the euro zone, culminating in a series of monetary bailouts. But the Greek crisis, which may end up being repeated in Italy and other European countries, has had an enormous impact on the European bloc and worldwide. And the uncertainty of how Europe will cope with the situations has dragged on throughout 2011, leaving economies struggling to come out of recession even more hamstrung.

As of mid-December, the final combat troops from the United States were removed from Iraq, marking the end of the war that began in 2003. The war began under President George W. Bush under the assumption that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction and after the nation refused to fully cooperate with the international community regarding inspections. After the toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime, no such weapons were found, though the leader was hunted down, tried, and later executed for crimes against humanity. In total, the war is suspected to have cost about \$1 trillion, the lives of about 4,500 U.S. soldiers and those of at least 100,000 Iraqi civilians. An additional 32,000 U.S. soldiers were also wounded.

Key political and economic events of 2012

. The November elections were obviously one of the Top Ten events of 2012: President Barack Obama was re-elected to a second term, Democrats strengthened their majority in the Senate and Republicans maintained control of the House, although they lost seats. While Obama won 2 fewer states than in 2008, his re-election seemed certain as the election drew closer for those who looked at the nonpartisan polling.

Unsurprisingly, more money was spent in the Presidential election of 2012 than ever before. It is the shot heard around the world every four years. But this year, we at least had new phrases, legal rulings and new names to toss around.

The European Union imposes an oil embargo on Iran in an attempt to get Iran to halt uranium enrichment and end its nuclear weapons efforts. Feb. 15: Iran warns six European countries that it might cut them off from Iranian oil. The threat is made to the ambassadors of Italy, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Greece and Portugal at the Foreign Ministry in Tehran.

Vladimir Putin wins the presidential election in Russia, claiming 64% of the vote. It will be his third full term as president of Russia.

Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad agrees to a cease-fire. The UN-brokered plan calls on the Syrian government to stop killing civilians, engage in talks with the opposition,

withdraw forces from the streets, and begin a transition to a democratic, political system. The country has been in a civil war for several months, following the March 2011 uprising. April 12: The cease-fire goes into effect, but observers are sceptical that it will last. May 26: 32 children under age 10 are killed when the Syrian government attacks the village of Houla. The United Nations blames the deaths on government tanks and artillery, saying many of the victims were executed in their homes. President Assad, however, claims terrorists carried out the attack. The cease-fire is considered moot. June 12: A United Nations official declares that Syria is in a state of civil war. June 22: The Syrian military shoots down a Turkish military jet. President Abdullah Gul of Turkey responds by saying that his country will do "whatever is necessary" in retaliation. Aug. 2: Kofi Annan resigns as UN special envoy to Syria, citing the refusal of the Syrian government to implement the UN-backed peace plan, intensifying violence by rebels, and discord within the Security Council.

Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi who in October 2010 was released after spending nearly 20 years under house arrest, wins a seat in parliament.

Francois Hollande defeats Nicolas Sarkozy to become president of France. With the victory, Hollande becomes the first Socialist president since Francois Mitterrand left office in 1995.

Hosni Mubarak, former president of Egypt, is sentenced to life in prison for being an accomplice in the killing of unarmed protestors during the January 2011 demonstrations.

The Center-right New Democracy party prevails in parliamentary elections in Greece.

June 20: New Democracy quickly forms a coalition with Pasok and the Democratic Left, and Antonis Samaras, the leader of New Democracy, is sworn in as prime minister.

Egyptian election officials declare Mohamed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood candidate, the winner of presidential election. Nov. 22: Morsi announces a brazen power grab when he declares authority over the courts, thereby removing any check on his actions by the courts. He says the move is necessary because the judiciary, made up of Hosni Mubarak appointees, is threatening to suspend the constitutional assembly before it completes the task of drafting a new constitution. Nov. 29: Under threat of being suspended by the courts, the constitutional assembly hastily approves a draft document, which is widely criticized for its ambiguity and lack of depth and originality. Dec. 26: President Morsi signs the new constitution into law. The referendum passed in two rounds of voting, on Dec. 14 and Dec. 22. About 64% of voters approved the constitution, but turnout was low—less than 33%.

For the first time since Col. Muammar Qaddafi was ousted, Libyans vote in a national election. The National Forces Alliance, a secular party led by Mahmoud Jibril, a Western-educated political scientist, prevailed over Islamist parties, including the Muslim Brotherhood, in the election to form a national congress.

The 2012 Summer Olympics open in London. More than 10,000 athletes from 205 countries participate in the Games. July 31: Michael Phelps wins his 19th Olympic medal, becoming the youngest winning Olympic athlete of all time. He surpassed the record held by Russian gymnast Larisa Latynina.

Hugo Chavez is elected to a third term as president of Venezuela

The UN General Assembly upgrades the status of the Palestinian Authority from current observer to non-member state.

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