

IRAN'S PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE IDEA OF NEW WORLD ORDER

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Received: 12 Nov 2021

Accepted: 15 Nov 2021

Published: 16 Nov 2021

ABSTRACT

The supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei, stated during a meeting with the Assembly of Experts that the present world is entering a “New World Order”, so the Islamic Republic of Iran should be aware of the changes and it should play a role in the new world order. He said the global order is in the process of change, so Iran has a more important duty in shaping and will have a strong role in creating the new world order. This new world order would replace American influence as capitalism and Western influence will collapse. The United States (US) is weakening in power and losing its hold on the world. The current world order led by America has been challenged and undermined because of the decline of political and ideological values, that were behind the US oppressive policies. A recent illustration of these repressive policies is the failure of America in Afghanistan, where they occupied Afghanistan for almost 20 years and left the people of Afghanistan in a state of oppression, jeopardy and uncertainty. The proposed paper will discuss the Islamic Republic of Iran and its idea of the new world order. This article would also discuss the failure of the US in the so-called war on terrorism and weapon of mass distraction, which resulted in the loss of innocents’ human life and left the country and its people in oppression and fear.

KEYWORDS: *The Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, New World Order, USA, Iraq and Afghanistan Crisis.*

INTRODUCTION TO NEW WORLD ORDER

The term new world order is not a new concept. The root of the origin of this concept goes back to Woodrow Wilson at the end of World War I and Winston Churchill at the end of World War II. The former president of the US, George H.W. Bush, on 11 September 1990 delivered a speech in a joint session of congress. In this speech, he focused on the emergence of a new world order which is terror free, strong in the pursuit of justice and more secure in the quest for peace. A place where all the nations of the world can prosper and live-in harmony. He said, “Today, that new world is struggling to be born, a world quite different from the one we have known, a world where the rule of law supplants the rule of the jungle, a world in which nations recognise the shared responsibility for freedom and justice, a world where the strong respect the rights of the weak” (Bush 1990). He said this effort of America is purely humanitarian, and there should not be any doubt about the credibility and reliability of America in this regard. But in reality, the situation of the world is something different, especially in the post 9/11 period.

After this lecture of Bush on the idea of new world order, the world has witnessed the biggest tragedy, most notably, the attack on the world trade centre in 2001. It resulted in the creation of the so-called war on terror. Later in 2003, the US invaded Iraq in the name of the weapon of mass destruction. In both these cases, the US found nothing but the loss of its army personals and billions of dollars. After the unfortunate terrorist attack on the world trade centre, the US forces

under the administration of George W. Bush went to Afghanistan with weapons and bombs and killed thousands of innocent Afghani people and invaded Afghanistan. The invasion of Afghanistan toppled the Taliban for the movement, but it could not eradicate Taliban and after 20 years of US invasion, Taliban is again back with more power and more planning for administration in Afghanistan. The crucial question is whether these ideas result in the abolishment of terrorism from the world or it creates more terrorist outfits, which results in the killing of innocent human beings.

THE INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

In a recent interview after the US army withdrawal from Afghanistan, John Pilger says that the Invasion of Afghanistan was a fraud and the Taliban were a convenient target to satisfy the lust for revenge for 9/11. According to him, “The most ubiquitous terrorism in the world is state-sponsored; America’s ‘war on terror’ was in reality, a war of terror” (Pilger 2021). Iran has been blaming America since the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq. There has been a historical disagreement between both countries since the Islamic Revolution in 1979. The supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, criticised the US for the current situation in Afghanistan and said that after the 20 years of occupation in the region all they (the US) brought is oppression against the Afghani people. He said that now, after so many problems in Afghanistan, the US is leaving Afghans in a disgraceful situation. The US is helping only to those who have cooperated with them over these years (Khamenei 2021). Afghanistan has always been a strategically important place to live in. It has attracted many imperial powers from Greece to Persia and Britain. Most importantly US and USSR, then the world’s two superpowers, fought several battles and proxy wars in this region. Due to its geostrategic location, Afghanistan is known as the heart of Asia, which connects the West Asian civilisation to Central and South Asia (Yosufi and Sharma 2021: 66-67). After the collapse of the USSR in the 90s, the fear of Russia’s comeback kept the US engaged in the region, as it already had an experience of Germany’s rise during the World War II. Pakistan had become a crucial friend of the US. It provided the perfect location for the US to contain Russia by supporting the Taliban, to keep an eye on the activities of neighbour country like Iran and to be able to access and exploit the natural resources of Central Asian countries, also to keep an eye on China. Therefore, the US-backed the Taliban with the assistance of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, who had their own interest in the region (Yosufi and Sharma 2021: 74).

The relationship of Saudi Arabia with the US has always been influenced by their security and defence trade cooperation, Saudi’s rivalry with Iran and Saudi’s ability to influence control over oil prices. In most cases, America has always protected Saudi Arabia and turned a blind eye to the human rights abuses committed by Saudi Arabia due to its strategic interest (Arthur 2021: 55-56). The Obama administration continued its military presence in countries like Iraq and Afghanistan instead of drawing down forces abroad, which was a campaign promise. In both the tenures of President Obama’s administration, the US military was engaged in war with Iraq and Afghanistan along with US military raids in countries like Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Pakistan. During the same time, he has also expanded the role of elite commando units and the use of modern technology, which includes armed drones and cyber weapons. The Trump administration continued this; in fact, he increased the number of troops overseas to fight terrorism in foreign lands (Arthur 2021: 56).

Global security has become more complex, and it continues. Since 9/11, different administrations in Washington under various presidencies saw the need to fight against terrorism, however their agendas during the election campaigns were to drawdown the war against terrorism. None of the administrations, from George Bush to Trump, could develop a long-term solution to tackle threats from non-state actors (Arthur 2021: 61).

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION IN THE NAME OF SECURITY

After 9/11, scanners played a significant role in the service of national security. This technology not only exposed non-metallic objects, but also exposed body parts that a person wants to keep to themselves. ATR (Automated Target Recognition) produces a generic view of entire body, including the medical devices and surgery. This high-tech machine enables passengers remain dressed while undressing them, but government views this as citizens' bodies, which puts privacy at risk (Tirosh and Birnhack 2013). When it comes to human rights issues, the counterterrorism strategies of the US have undoubtedly crossed the line with no accountability. The reports that come under the Obama administration or under the Trump administration of using techniques for security has an awful nature of the strategy. A simple everyday example can be frisking passengers at the airport, making them walk through advanced scanner machines, which could show the whole body naked, a massive personal space violation of privacy and human rights as well. The government has done these violations of civil liberties without the approval of constitution and the public (Arthur 2021: 62-63).

THE EMERGING NEW WORLD ORDER

The supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, asserted during a meeting with the Assembly of Experts that the present world is entering in a "New World Order", so Iran should be cognizant of the development and participate in the new world order. The global order is shifting, and Iran will play a more significant role in shaping and establishing the new world order. This would supplant American influence as capitalism and Western dominance crumble. Ayatollah Khamenei suggested that Iran has to understand the world new order correctly rather than submitting to the Idea of western superiority. It should be prepared to play a substantial role in the world new order. Iran has to make country strong and use its capabilities, both inside and outside the country. The capabilities like strategic depth in the region, supports, Islam, language, Shia ideology, science, economics, culture and its influence in Asia and Latin America would be helpful to make Iran strong and to shape the new world order (Karami 2014). Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, who is the advisor to Iran's supreme leader, says that no country could carry out a revolution in the age of bipolarity system, but Iran gained victory from the control of the US and the Soviet Union. Later in creating a unipolarity system globally, America faced defeat in their unilateral actions in Iraq and Afghanistan. He claims that the world is moving towards a multipolar system in which no superpower country would exist globally by 2030 (Fulton and Toumaj 2013).

In a world of interconnectedness, Fathollah-Nejad refers to this system as inter-polarity, defined as multipolarity in an age of interdependence. In the contemporary global system, Inter-polarity is seen as rising and deepening. After the end of both bipolarity and unipolarity systems, this theory conceptualises the emerging world new Order. Inter-polarity argues that the most crucial interaction takes place between these poles, largely inter-polar affairs, in a world where multiple re-emerging and established great powers are all functioning on the global arena (Fathollah-Nejad 2021: 281).

The policy of Resistance Economy which was introduced by Ayatollah Khamenei, is also considered a step towards the idea of new world order. The concept of Resistance Economy aspires to ensure that Iran's economic system can withstand foreign pressure while also supporting the country's long-term goal of becoming one of the poles in the new world order. The policy-making process can reveal how Iranian policymakers seek to materialise this vision in action (Toumaj 2014: 9).

THE GEO STRATEGICAL AND CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF IRAN

Iran effectively controls access to the Persian Gulf, the world's largest petroleum export hub. It has a surface area of 1.648 million km, making it the 18th largest state globally. It is more significant than any countries with which it shares land frontiers, including Turkey and Pakistan. At the same time, Iran influences on its neighbour's countries. (Bansal 2012: 848). It has 10 percent of global proven oil reserves, whereas Saudi Arabia has 24 percent. Iran's natural gas reserves are approximately 15 percent of the global gas reserves (Bansal 2012: 851). Its strategic location makes Iran blockade the Strait of Hormuz, which is a bottleneck on the global oil sea route (Desiderio and Maronta 2009).

Iran's place in the globe is illustrated by two notable geopolitical and strategic factors. To begin with, Iran acts as the only land bridge between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea, the world's two primary fossil cores. At the same time, Iran boasts the world's second-largest petroleum and natural gas reserve, the Caspian Sea region is a major hydrocarbons source and the Persian Gulf region contains 60 percent of the world's oil and 40 per cent of its gas reserves. It makes the primary shipping channel for oil exports to global markets. Secondly, Iran is geographically placed in the heart of all of the world's major powers, with a radius of only 1000 kilometres. For example, Russia, China, India, European Union and US. The US is included because of its heavy presence near Iran's border since the last century. Thus, Fathollah-Nejad argues that no other state holds such a geostrategic location surrounded by major powers. This strategic location of Iran also poses a complex challenge for its foreign policy and the study of international relations (Fathollah-Nejad 2021:12-13). Persian language has also very significant place because of its historical connection. Its affiliated languages are spoken in a vast section of Asia, and the language is spoken by around 110 million people globally. Persian was the second most widely spoken language in South Asia five centuries back, before the period of British rule. It was considered the language of the elite in many princely nations and a medium for higher education. Many Muslim rulers, notably the Mughals, used it as their official language. Urdu, Pakistan's official language, is written in Persian script and influenced by Persian culture. It is widely spoken in India and other parts of South Asian countries (Bansal 2012: 849).

CONCLUSIONS

On 15 August, President Ashraf Ghani surrendered in the face of the Taliban militant group and fled the country, which announced the collapse of the government of Afghanistan. This sudden chaotic situation happened when US President Joe Biden decided to withdraw the US Army occupation from Afghanistan. There is an old saying in English which says, "If your only tool is Hammer, everything looks like a nail", and when this hammer is used to deal with the problem of terrorism, the problems get double. The US had already learnt this lesson in Iraq and again remembered this painful lesson in Afghanistan. In both cases, the US faced loss and humiliation. Iran always viewed the US as an arrogant hegemonic power, which aimed to destroy the Iranian Islamic system because of its anti-US regime policies. The US denounced the Islamic Republic as a repressive theocracy, which became a threat to American interest in the West Asian region and beyond. The rivalry between Iran and the US will continue for a long time for their survival in international politics and regional interest.

The United States is weakening in power and losing its hold on the globe, and World New Order is emerging, in which various rising powers are making their place in the international power-sharing system. U.S. invaded Iraq under the cover of a 'Weapons of Mass Destruction', which turned out to be false and occupied Afghanistan under the pretext of a 'War on Terror', which also failed. The so-called war on terror has lost U.S. credibility in the international arena and cost trillions of

dollars in Afghanistan. It has sparked a heated debate in Washington about the US role in the world. Ayatollah Khamenei's perception of America and its greater West Asian policies is that the current world order led by America has been challenged and undermined because of the decline of political and ideological values which were behind the US oppressive policies. Khamenei feels that the West's influence in West Asia has waned. He claims that Iran, under his leadership, is leading an Islamic counter-offensive against the West. Iran has for four decades served as a model for projecting Islam's political, cultural, and social dominance to the rest of the globe, a struggle that will culminate in the formation of a new world order.

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