



STRATAGEM

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CHANGING DYNAMICS OF VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES



USA'S POLICY SHIFT TO PACIFIC: HURDLES FOR CHINA

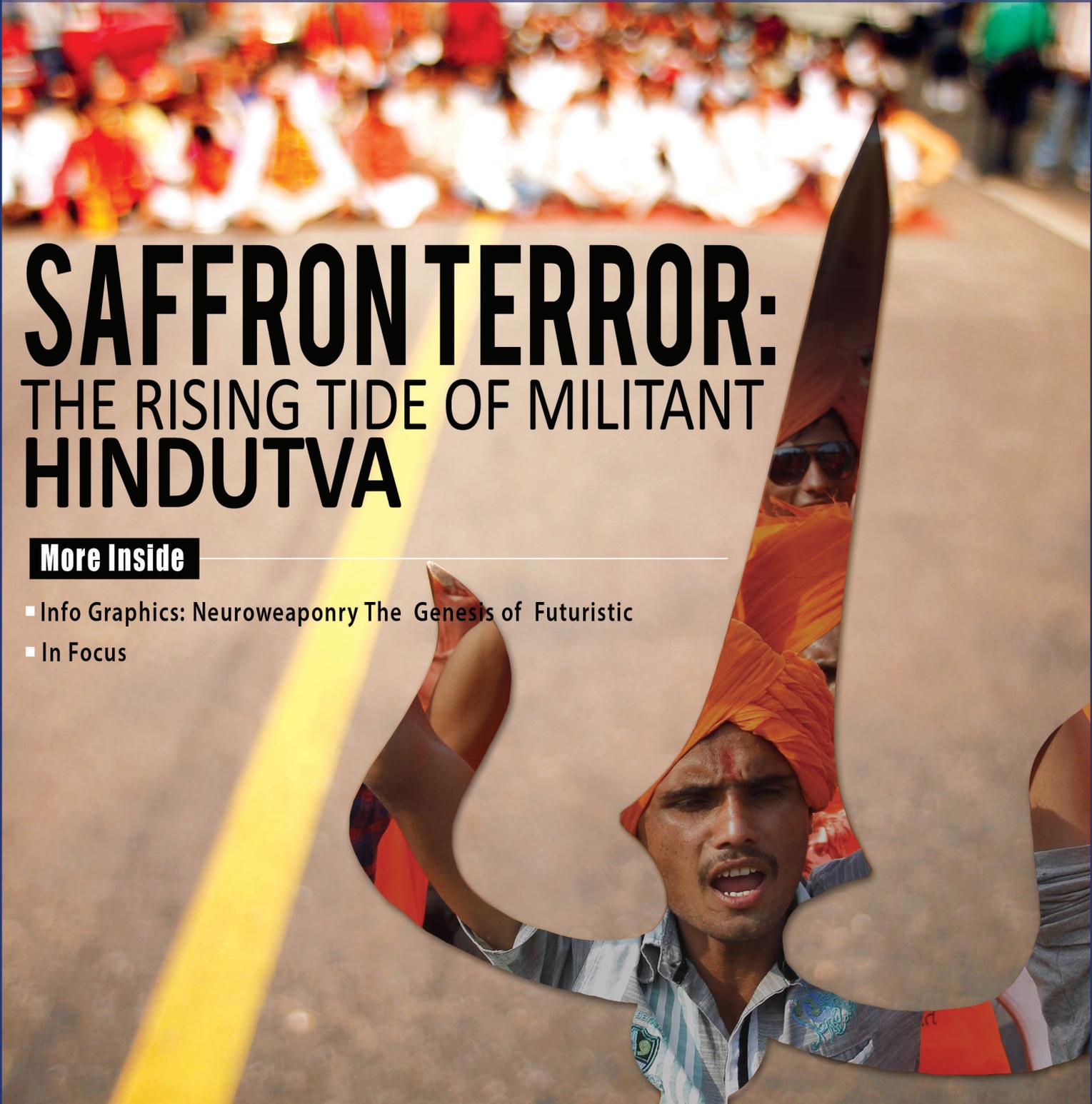


PAK-US TIES: CHEQUERED HISTORY AND A TROUBLED FUTURE

SAFFRON TERROR: THE RISING TIDE OF MILITANT HINDUTVA

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IN FOCUS

PAF BADABER CAMP ATTACK

Peshawar's PAF Badaber camp came under attack by the Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan in the early hours of September 18. At least 29 people were martyred, while thirteen terrorists were killed by the security forces. The martyrs included 23 from air force, three from army and three civilians. ISPR spokesperson also said that 29 people were severely wounded during the attack. Capt Asfandyar embraced martyrdom while fighting valiantly and leading his troops from the front.

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif visited the wounded at CMH Peshawar and held meetings with Corps Commander Lieutenant-General Hidayatur Rehman and Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman to discuss the terrorist attack.

DG ISPR General Asim Bajwa, while addressing a press conference on the eve of the attack said, "The attackers came from Afghanistan and the whole foul play was planned in the neighboring country. This attack was being executed through direct coordination from Afghanistan as well."



KASHMIR IN THE UN

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on the sidelines of the 70th UNGA Session in New York, where he stressed on the need for implementation of the United Nation's Security Council resolution on Kashmir and urged for a plebiscite in the occupied territory. He also raised the issue of ceasefire violations on the Line of Control and the Working Boundary by India. He also called for the strengthening of United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Ban offered his good offices for dialogue between the two arch rivals.

Pakistan has also complained to the UN Security Council that India is building a wall along the Line of Control and plans to convert the LoC "into a quasi international border". Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi, sent two letters to the UNSC on Sept 4 and 9, sharing Islamabad's concern over the construction of this wall. India has dismissed the charge as incorrect and pledged to respond at an "appropriate time".



During Modi-Obama talks on the sidelines of the 70th UNGA Session, President Barack Obama agreed with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Kashmir is a bilateral issue to be resolved between India and Pakistan.

PAKISTAN

PM NAWAZ ADDRESSES THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in his address to the UN General Assembly, proposed four peace measures, including demilitarization of Kashmir and an unconditional withdrawal of troops from Siachen. He firstly proposed a 'complete ceasefire on the Line of Control in Kashmir'. Secondly, he said that the two states will not resort to the use or threat of use of force. Thirdly, he called for steps to be taken to demilitarize Kashmir. Lastly, he spoke of an agreement between India and Pakistan for an unconditional mutual withdrawal from Siachen Glacier.



The proposals were rejected by India, when India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said, "we do not need four points, we need just one - give up terrorism and let us sit down and talk"; to which, Pakistan responded with handing over the proof of Indian involvement in instigating terrorism in Pakistan. The dossier submitted to UN chief Ban Ki-moon, contains evidence of Indian-backed terrorism in Karachi, Balochistan and FATA.

BURRAQ KILLS 3 MILITANTS IN ITS FIRST STRIKE

The indigenously developed Pakistani armed drone Burraq was used for the first time on September 7, killing three terrorists in North Waziristan's Shawal Valley.

"First ever use of Pakistan made Burraq Drone today. Hit a terrorist compound in Shawal Valley killing three high-profile terrorists," military spokesman Asim Bajwa tweeted.

Burraq, produced by the Strategic Plans Division in collaboration with the National Development Complex, was tested on March 13. It is armed with the laser-guided Barq missile.



IN FOCUS

MINA STAMPEDE CLAIMS HUNDREDS OF LIVES:

A deadly stampede during Hajj claimed the lives of at least 717 pilgrims, according to official figures. The stampede happened as pilgrims, numbering about two million, were on their way to the Jamrat to perform the “stoning of the devil” ritual during Hajj. The exact cause of the accident could not be determined.

Morocco and Iran suffered the highest death tolls. Media reports place Moroccan deaths at 87 while Iranian officials said 131 Iranians died.

Pakistan’s Religious Affairs Minister Sardar Muhammad Yousuf informed the media that the death toll of Pakistani pilgrims has risen to 42, while 62 are still missing.

Previously, on 11th September 2015, a crawler crane had toppled over onto the Masjid al-Haram, killing 111 people.



SINO-AMERICAN DIALOGUE

President Xi Jinping made his first state visit to the United States from Sept 22 to 25, which included negotiations between the world’s top two economies on a variety of key issues.



The U.S. and China found common ground on cyber security, an agreement announced in remarks delivered jointly by Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Obama. The two leaders agreed that neither government would conduct nor knowingly support web enabled theft of intellectual property.

Mr. Obama and Mr. Xi reaffirmed their commitment to the investment treaty as a “top economic priority”; they also jointly announced the creation of a cap-and-trade program in China, a move designed to build momentum for a strong agreement to confront global warming.

WORLD

KUNDUZ IN TALIBAN HANDS

In a major victory for the Afghan Taliban, the key Afghan city of Kunduz was seized on 28th September. The Taliban seized the main roundabout in the city and made it to the prison, where they freed several hundred inmates. Rahmatullah Nabil, head of the National Directorate of Security said the total number of prisoners freed was closer to 600. Of those, 110 prisoners were Taliban insurgents.



The Afghan army, backed by NATO, launched a counter-offensive to retake Kunduz from the Taliban, a day after the strategic northern city was overrun by the Taliban.

Taliban fighters are believed to be expanding the fight to other northern provinces.

RUSSIAN INTERVENTION IN SYRIA

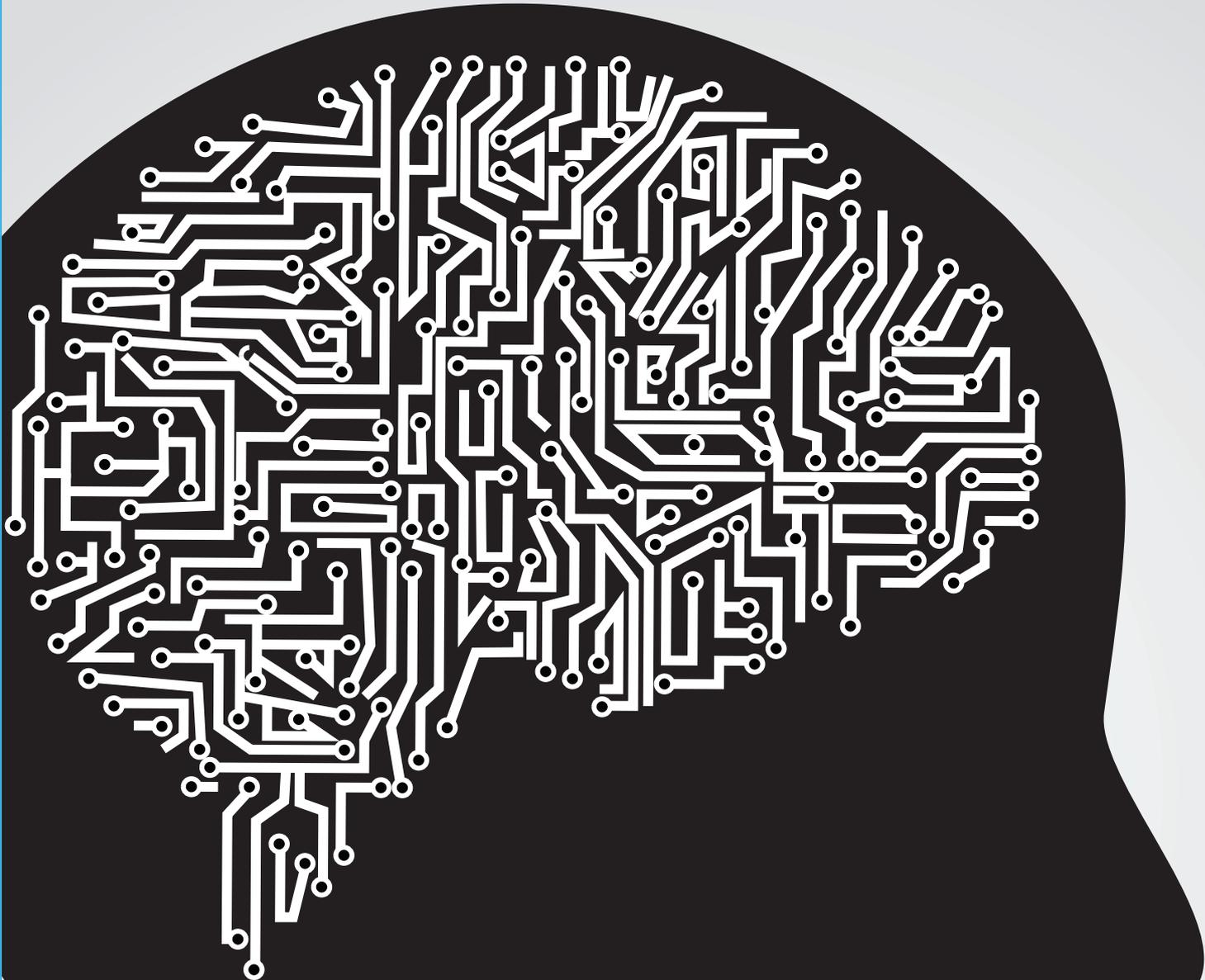
After the upper house of parliament granted President Vladimir Putin authorization to deploy the country's air force to Syria, Russia carried out first air strikes in Syria, targeting positions and vehicles that are believed to be ISIL's.

Sergey Ivanov, the Russian Foreign Minister said, "The operation's military goal is exclusively air support of the Syrian armed forces in their fight against ISIL". He also said Putin's move followed a request for military help by Assad.



Russia had previously increased the number of combat aircraft at an air base near Latakia Syria - an Assad stronghold. Russia deployed a dozen Su-24 Fencer and a dozen Su-25 Frogfoot ground-attack planes, bringing to 28 the number of warplanes at the base.

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly for the first time in 10 years, Russian President Vladimir V. Putin also suggested that there should be a Security Council resolution to "coordinate" actions against terrorist groups like the Islamic State.



NEUROWEAPONRY

THE GENESIS OF FUTURISTIC
WEAPONRY

INFOGRAPHIC

Weapons are meant to injure, defeat and destroy the opponent. And when this intent of weaponization is applied to the advancements in neurotechnology, the results can prove to be literally mind-numbing, to say the least.

With the rapid developments in neurotechnology and its ability to channelize mind power to accomplish physical feats - the ability to track neurons, to decode or stimulate them, and to create brain maps of the brain's complex circuit - opens a world of possibilities for intelligence gathering, mind manipulation, deterrence and defense.

CONVENTIONAL NEUROWEAPONRY

Torture methods - those employed during interrogation and punishment, such as flashing lights, sleep deprivation and irritating the auditory senses - broadly fall under the field of neuroweapons. Technically, the sensory stimuli applied transmit intensive amounts of energy to be perceived as stimulus modality in order to inflict pain, while other test the limits of tolerable experience by verging on the level of conscious perception. Emotional propaganda as a form of psychological warfare can also be broadly categorized as an indirect form of neuroweapons.

SCI-FI TURNED REALITY

Neurotechnology in general and neuroweapons in particular, are still in their initial stages of development. The so-called "weapons of the mind", are possibilities rapidly turning into reality.

NEURO IMAGING

A technique which can precisely indicate activity in the brain while doing certain activities. The lit area of the brain under assessment can indicate whether the person has good planning and risk-taking attitude, and is fit for a task, such as that of a soldier, commander or strategist.

BRAIN-MACHINE INTERFACE (BMI)

This ground-breaking technology has enabled humans to read brain activity and translate it into physical action, and vice versa, creating perceptions through neuron stimulation. BMI has made it possible to operate remotely piloted aircraft and weaponry by the power of thought alone. Jan Scheuermann, a paralyzed woman, successfully controlled an F-35 and a single-engine Cessna in a flight simulator, using her thoughts and a brain implant, funded by DARPA. The BMI technology has the power to make military operations faster and more accurate.

DRUGS

In order to change the minds and hearts, neuro-pharmacologic and neuro-toxic drugs can be employed to decrease the will to fight, transforming enemies into friends, to foster harmony and trust while divulging sensitive information, and to neutralize the opponent by inflicting mental pain and suffering. War veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can also be potentially treated with a combination of pharmaceuticals and neurotechnology.

NEURO-BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

Unleashing microbiological agents targeting the central nervous system to induce diseases and infections with high morbidity/mortality, over any given population to create panic, fear and mismanagement among the opponent's side also falls under the category of neurobiological weapons. This could also make possible the targeting of a particular group of combatants or a specific person with these microbiological agents to weaken the opponent.

THE FUTURE OF BRAIN WARS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) takes the lead with researching and advancing in the field of neurotechnology and its potential application in intelligence gathering and weaponization.

Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) is also heavily invested in finding ways to make strategists smarter.

Russia is also working along similar lines with its newly-found, Foundation for Advanced Research. Japan, too, announced its own DARPA-inspired research agency, also termed as JARPA by some. The European Defense Agency has been working in this field since 2001. India recently announced to reshape its Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO) into a cutting-edge military research agency, similar to DARPA.

LAWS AND LIMITATIONS

Existing laws pertaining to chemical and biological warfare do not apply to this modern war tactic, which has not yet ascertained its limits. The future battlefield is one of confusion and uncertainty. Without a legal framework to restrict the access of neuroweapons to the private thoughts of masses, and influencing their cognition, beliefs and emotions - thus altering perceptions and behaviors - free will and cognitive liberty is at stakes.

It seems like the War on Iraq, in 2003, has been resurrected, but with a few adjustments according to status quo; cruise missiles are being fired from Russian warships on Syria with frequent airstrikes and reconnaissance missions. The target this time is ISIS instead of Saddam Hussein and his Ba'athist Party. Narrative in this instance is war against terrorism, focused on ISIS. This scenario postulates a hybrid of both military incursions in Afghanistan and Iraq, whereby Russia would soften Syria through airstrikes and cruise missile deployment, making the

ground favorable for personnel deployment. Tactics throughout the war on terror have not changed, as is evident by this strategy but Ashton Carter, Secretary of Defense of United States, has other concerns. He is trying to make Vladimir Putin understand that offensive behavior is not a recommended approach — a suggestion backed by adequate personal experience. Hesitant though he may seem, Mr. Carter is more concerned with the reasons of such sudden assistance in the war against terrorism by the bear, an otherwise docile creature in hibernation. Then comes the link

— Syria presents two opportunities for Russia to exploit for future use; one is Putin's reassurances favored towards Assad's regime and the other, more sinister in nature, is Russia's utilization of Syrian Civil War as a practice session for show of force, which might

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CHANGE OF HEART:

ASHTON CARTER

NARRATIVE

STRATEGIC PULSE |||



by Muhammad Sharreh Qazi



come in handy while reopening its inclination towards Ukraine.

Russia, in an attempt to 'seize the moment' somehow dealt the first serious blow to ISIS when it opened a military response in targeting terrorist installations in Syrian territory. The US, currently preoccupied with internal election campaigns, sought fit not to engage in quid pro quo, and resorted to diversifying Russian motives of such an assault to be aimed both in securing Assad and in displaying military prowess to Europe. Ashton Carter — ambiguously warning and threatening— indicates that Russia would have a vulnerable standpoint at continued aggression because of prospective retaliation. The true intentions of such a threat perception are subject to debate based on personal interpretation, and if Russia's Muslim oriented sectors do witness extremist insurgency, Putin would not be too hesitant to call Mr. Carter to blame. Furthermore, Russian aspirations to take Syria as a test case for a worst-case scenario with NATO over Ukraine is also a long shot interpretation, dominated by conventional paranoia that surrounds US-Russian relationship as adversaries. Ulterior motive can only cause apprehension so long as the adversary does not inadvertently or intentionally displays such notions, and Russia, for the major part, is not prepared for such a display.

What can be argued though is the fact that Russia has instituted a strategy that was previously employed to achieve a similar goal set, and consequently was unable to achieve declared objectives. Military offensive against ISIS would allow them to proliferate to more dispersed locations and

Military offensive against ISIS would allow them to proliferate to more dispersed locations and might even trigger a spillover to regions in geographical proximity, making counterinsurgency rather difficult.

Then comes the link — Syria presents two opportunities for Russia to exploit for future use; one is Putin's reassurances favored towards Assad's regime and the other, more sinister in nature, is Russia's utilization of Syrian Civil War as a practice session for show of force, which might come in handy while reopening its inclination towards Ukraine.

might even trigger a spillover to regions in geographical proximity, making counterinsurgency rather difficult. Ashton Carter is right to the extent that Russia might face retaliation, but he was indistinct as to what this precisely indicated. Whether he meant a resurgent Chechen uprising abetted by ISIS elements or military confrontation once Russian forces are deployed in Syria, is a debatable argument, but his notion that there will be retaliation nonetheless, holds credibility. Context to this notice however, is what made the effort distort in its completion. Threatening retaliation and signaling concerns, from a NATO perspective, coupled with concerns over Russian aerial presence in Syria alongside American aerial presence, is not a healthy indicator to the words 'prospective retaliation'. Russia, if misinterpreting this setting, might take aggression further which

would be similarly vague and would thus spoil the Syrian stalemate more than what it is at status quo.

Dynamics of Syrian conflict make this situation exceptionally perplexing. If a coalition aimed at targeting ISIS operates militarily, it automatically facilitates Assad regime in gaining leverage from a vacuum. If a coalition is not formed and Russia chooses to act alone, then international community would be worried of a resurgent Assad regime, facilitated by Russian support. If global community chooses not to intervene and let Syria settle its issue internally, followed by a collapsed Assad regime, the confidence boost to ISIS and other terrorist elements in Syria would institute an automated spillover in neighboring regions, challenging the global commitment of war against terrorism. If America chooses to stay detached from Syrian conflict over the pretext of reducing global military footprint, it invites Russia with a more aggressive posture to attempt replacing American dominance in Middle Eastern politics. If NATO temporarily agrees to form a coalition with Russia against

If NATO temporarily agrees to form a coalition with Russia against ISIS, it risks exposing its military vulnerabilities to a traditional adversary.



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ISIS, it risks exposing its military vulnerabilities to a traditional adversary. In all likely scenarios, tradeoffs are exceptionally higher than predicted by states willing to counter both Assad and ISIS.

Discussing effectiveness of Russian strikes and allegations that Russia has ignored terrorist targets, and has targeted anti-Assad coalition forces, is subject to debate because verification of efficacy of both claims is reserved with credibility of sources with denial and counterevidence being available to both sides. Where international community is appreciative of the fact that an unstable Syria postulates augmentation of ISIS forces, and it does present a serious challenge, it is also wary of Russian presence in the region as an unprecedented and calculated motive for future use alongside the Mediterranean. American elections in the coming year do not permit the current regime to open up a fresh military venture, primarily because of the actors involved in Syria. An unstable deal with Iran, withdrawal from Afghanistan, instability between India and Pakistan, commitments to NATO and Chinese advances towards East Asia are all exceptionally higher policy preferences for the US.

Middle East, as usual, is seen flaunting the 'jihad narrative' with such callousness that it forgets how it was the same behavioral approach that made matters worse for them in the first place. The tug-of-war between supporting Assad and not supporting Assad has reached its zenith, and the only party to





benefit from such a predicament is ISIS, which keeps consolidating its position as it evolves. Initiating the jihad narrative is not only a volatile diplomatic move but also indicative that if apprehensions towards Russia escalate more than what they are right now, there would be little hesitation in covertly assisting ISIS, as was the case that led to creation of Taliban post-Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Middle East still requires proceeding with caution amid its own Yemen debacle and more recent suicide attacks in Saudi Arabia. Ashton Carter's 'paying the price' narrative could be more than what it was during his address to NATO. Intentions on both sides are dubious; Russia desires to strengthen Assad regime to consolidate its control in Middle Eastern dynamics, and allies aspire to dismantle Assad regime to install a more favorable arrangement. In this struggle, Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern regions further desire to pacify Iranian position in Syria and aim to install a regime more conducive to their regimes. Where all states party to the Syrian issue understands ISIS to be a major threat for regional and global peace, they are all exceptionally preoccupied with their personal agenda and threat perceptions towards each other, providing adequate vacuum for ISIS to operate and disperse with relative ease. Even if Syrian endgame is collectively favorable

to all state parties, ISIS would have gained sufficient strategic position in Iraq to continue to intervene in a recently stabilized Syria with potential for resuming insurgency and invalidating all previous strategies of pacification.

Russian military intervention was harsh, but American concerns, shared by NATO, are also not relieving. Amalgamating the Balkans with Syrian stalemate is not prudent because it tends to stretch one issue parallel to the other. Such a move would be destabilizing because it would further compartmentalize not only one issue but several others, and would allow terrorist entities to accumulate maximum benefit. Terrorist entities seek similar opportunities where there is either a weak coalition with personal motives during conflict, or general commotion amongst state participants at state level that affects efficiency of counterinsurgency operations. If Assad regime is overthrown or anti-Assad coalitions are dismantled, in both case scenarios there is a growing possibility that dissidents from either side, or even both sides in extreme circumstances, might opt to connect to ISIS, and augment the same or form their own military coalitions, further complicating the issue. Russian military offensive requires accountability, and it can be achieved if the US and NATO coalition aims at neutralizing ISIS

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alongside Russia. Such a strategy would institute complacency with Russia and Assad, and might even initiate accountability for atrocities committed by Assad regime whilst it was in power. There is no denying the fact that the US and its allies from Europe and Middle East provided abundant military and financial support to anti-Assad forces, similar to the support provided to Afghan Mujahedeen during the Soviet-Afghan war. Such assistance is often observed to be used for reprehensible purposes prospectively, and renders all efforts of stability redundant in a short span of time. Syria has sufficient capability to transform to Soviet era Afghanistan, only with more devastating consequences for regional neighbors, currently under threat of implosion and civil war. Ashton Carter's worries are predictable tremors of the Cold War apprehensions, but that ship has long sailed, to be replaced by a more diverse enemy that needs his attention — the ISIS.

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→ BIOSPHERE

Changing Dynamics of Vector-Borne Diseases



by Dr. Syeda Benish Ali



Recent decades have witnessed a dramatic change in the epidemiology and dynamics of many infectious diseases in the form of unexpected and sudden outbreaks or epidemics, emergence of diseases in non-endemic geographical areas, changes in the susceptibility of host population, outbreak of a previously rare disease etc. Most significant of these changes have been observed in vector-borne diseases.

Vector-borne diseases are those which are transmitted to humans, plants or animals by an agent called vector. Mosquitoes are the most common and notorious of these vectors, followed by other arthropods, including ticks, mites, cockroaches and bed bugs, in addition to few non-arthropod vectors, such as rodents and snails. The other two members of a vector-borne disease are the pathogen and the host. Pathogen refers to the infectious agent that causes the disease, and host is the organism that contracts the disease.

Vector-borne diseases carry the largest share of global infectious disease burden, with nearly half of the world's population being infected with at least one type of



Recently, many vector-borne diseases have reemerged as a matter of global concern, for instance the reemergence of malaria and dengue fever in Asia, incidence of bluetongue among ruminant livestock in Europe, and the worldwide emergence of a citrus infection caused by the citrus tristeza virus.

vector-borne disease. Well-known vector-borne diseases affecting human hosts are malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, plague, West Nile virus infection and leishmaniasis.

Vector-borne diseases have been a major cause of human mortality and morbidity from 17th through early 20th century. Diagnosis of the cause and identification of vectors led to the development and application of effective control measures, resulting into significant reductions in incidence rates in various parts of the globe, particularly among the developed world. Recently, many vector-borne

diseases have reemerged as a matter of global concern, for instance the reemergence of malaria and dengue fever in Asia, incidence of bluetongue among ruminant livestock in Europe, and the worldwide emergence of a citrus infection caused by the citrus tristeza virus.

Threats and outcomes regarding the resurgence of these ailments have been the subject of investigation at global level, and different organizations are working to combat this new era of vector-borne diseases.



A trend of paying less attention towards vector control measures, the development of growth-promoting environmental conditions, and extensive use of insecticides have resulted into the growth of vector populations up to harmful levels, as well as the evolution of many insecticide-resistant strains of vectors, thus contributing to the recent reemergence of vector-borne diseases.

Factors Affecting the Disease Dynamics

Transmission, epidemiology and impacts of vector-borne diseases result from a complex interaction between several interconnected and overlapping biological, ecological, social, demographic and climatic factors as discussed below.

Vector and the host population: The incidence and prevalence of disease-causing agent is dependent upon several characteristics of vector and host population. Efficiency of disease transmission by vectors, biting rate and sustainability of vector population are among major characteristics of vector population, while those of host population include susceptibility to disease, migration, immunity, population density and efficacy of disease control programs.

Social and Demographic Factors: Vector-borne diseases have been intricately linked to several social and demographic factors viz. population density, low immune status of population, poor socio-economic conditions, housing types, waste management system, domestic hygiene, land use, irrigation network, water supply, urbanization, sewage disposal system and general environmental hygiene.

Vector control programs: Since these diseases are transmitted by vectors, therefore, vector control programs have a central significance in affecting the distribution pattern. As mentioned earlier, initial vector control programs in the early 20th



century brought about a substantial reduction in the incidence of vector-borne diseases by altering the habitats and by the use of insecticides. However, a trend of paying less attention towards vector control measures, the development of growth-promoting environmental conditions, and extensive use of insecticides have resulted into the growth of vector populations up to harmful levels, as well as the evolution of many insecticide-resistant strains of vectors, thus contributing to the recent reemergence of vector-borne diseases. Moreover, populations with inadequate vector control programs, e.g. many parts



Another significant reason behind the reemergence of vector-borne diseases is climate change.

of Africa have remained susceptible to vector-borne diseases.

Health Care Infrastructure: Like any other public health issue, vector-borne disease dynamics are also largely affected by the efficient and accessible health care facilities. For instance, malaria is concentrated in underdeveloped areas as compared to developed ones. Economic and political stresses may deteriorate health care infrastructure rendering the affected population more vulnerable.

Climate Change: Another significant reason behind the reemergence of vector-borne diseases is climate change. Host and vector population characteristics mentioned earlier are partly influenced by short-term and long-term meteorological factors such as temperature, humidity and rainfall. Most of the vectors spread best under warm and moist conditions.

Arthropods - the most common disease vectors, are ectothermic animals, i.e. they are dependent on external sources of heat for the maintenance of body temperature. Therefore, the distribution of various arthropods is restricted to warm areas. Global warming will provide conditions conducive to the spread of various vector species. Temperature required for the transmission of most vector-borne diseases ranges from 14-180 to 35-400. Therefore, the major anticipated impact of climate change is alteration in the distribution patterns, such as an expansion of vector range and its shift towards high altitudes, and to the areas previously free of vector population, thus exposing a non-immune host population to infection. On the contrary, an increase in temperature above their tolerance limit will cause elimination of vector populations in some other areas.

Another attribute of climate change is alteration in rainfall pattern resulting in an increased rainfall in some areas, while leaving others relatively drier. Thus the effects of alteration in rainfall pattern are also region-specific; increased inland flooding may provide more breeding habitats for mosquitoes in



Another factor that contributes to the variability in the disease transmission and incidence patterns is the El-Nino effect, manifested as a remarkable increase in sea surface temperatures in the central and east-central Equatorial Pacific.

some areas, while drought in other areas may limit their survival.

In addition, climate change is likely to cause and/or intensify droughts and famine causing reduction in host resistance to infection, thus making them more susceptible to diseases.

Another factor that contributes to the variability in the disease transmission and incidence patterns is the El-Nino effect, manifested as a remarkable increase in sea surface temperatures in the central and east-central Equatorial Pacific. El-Nino phase has been associated with malarial outbreaks in many regions. Although El-Nino is a short-term change in weather, it is expected to become more intense and frequent with ongoing climate change.

Impacts of climate change will vary among different countries depending upon their vulnerability and capability to cope with the change. On a global level, IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has projected an increased risk of vector-borne diseases. Since climate change affects all life-support systems as well as factors associated with disease transmission, therefore, an integrated approach is required for adaptation to survive in a better way.

Implications for Pakistan

According to WHO, vector-borne diseases are on rise in Pakistan. Important vector-borne diseases in Pakistan are malaria, dengue fever and leishmaniasis.

Malaria: The most common of all mosquito-borne



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diseases is malaria, transmitted to human host through bite of female Anopheles mosquito carrying the pathogen Plasmodium. Plasmodium infections in Pakistan are predominantly caused by *P. vivax* but *P. falciparum* and mixed species infections also persist. Pakistan is classified as a moderate malaria-endemic country. As per WHO reports, annual burden of malaria is 1.5 million cases mainly affecting less prosperous areas along border with Afghanistan and Iran. Baluchistan has the highest prevalence of malaria followed by Sindh and KPK, whereas there is low prevalence in Punjab and Islamabad. However, repeated floods have caused an increase in the malaria prevalence in the low transmission areas of Punjab. Apart from meteorological features, certain other factors have also played a significant role in the changing dynamics of malaria in Pakistan. A noticeable factor among these is the mass migration of susceptible human population from Afghanistan as well as internal displacement of population from militancy-affected areas. In addition, misdiagnosis of malarial infection is a matter of grave concern due to very limited number of diagnostic centers for microscopic diagnosis of malaria. Consequently, conventional diagnosis relies on symptoms without identification of the causative species. Most commonly prescribed drug is chloroquine which is only effective against *P. vivax* and not *P. falciparum*. Misdiagnosis, chloroquine resistance in *P. falciparum*, and influx of *P. falciparum*-infected hosts from Afghanistan have been implicated in the rising trend of *P. falciparum* infection in Pakistan. Limited access and non-presentation of many cases to any health care facility also contribute to disease burden.

Dengue Fever: Dengue fever is caused by dengue virus (genus *Flavivirus*). Vector species for

transmitting the dengue virus are *Aedes* mosquitoes, principally *A. aegypti*, which are well-adapted to urban settlements, and are generally regarded as indoor mosquitoes. During the past ten years, dengue fever has emerged as an important vector-borne disease in Pakistan. First reported incidence of dengue fever occurred in 1985 followed by reappearance in 1994 and 1995. There have been several dengue outbreaks in the country since then, worst being in 2011, costing hundreds of human lives. Lahore has been the epicenter of recent dengue outbreaks in Pakistan. *Aedes* mosquito flourishes best under warm and moist conditions, therefore increase in summer temperature and alteration in monsoon pattern are likely to affect the epidemiology and transmission period of this critical ailment. Since no vaccine is available against this virus, prevention must be the best approach for mitigation. Unfortunately, many people are not aware of effective prevention methods resulting in the abundant growth and transmission of *Aedes* mosquitoes.

Leishmaniasis: Leishmaniasis is an infectious disease caused by species of *Leishmania*, a protozoan parasite transmitted by the bite of female blood-sucking phlebotomine sandflies. Incidence of leishmaniasis is on rise in Pakistan, particularly in areas having huge influx of refugees and regions alongside boundary with Afghanistan - a country recognized by WHO as one of the hotspots of leishmaniasis. This is another example where mass migration of a population affects disease dynamics of a region. Leishmaniasis outbreak also occurred among Syrian refugees in Lebanon during September 2012. In addition, poor indoor sanitation is directly



Baluchistan has the highest prevalence of malaria followed by Sindh and KPK, whereas there is low prevalence in Punjab and Islamabad. However, repeated floods have caused an increase in the malaria prevalence in the low transmission areas of Punjab.

related to the abundance of sandflies.

In brief, factors determining the vulnerability of Pakistani population and altering the dynamics of human vector-borne diseases in Pakistan include climate change, growing human population, mass migration of population through international border at Afghanistan, internal displacement of people from militancy-affected areas, general environmental decline, low immune status of population, natural disasters, poor health care infrastructure, misdiagnosis, lack of awareness, ineffective control measures and non-preparedness for outbreaks.

Mitigation Strategies

The magnitude and pace of change are the two main driving factors affecting the ability to mitigate the impact and to adapt. Consequences of climate change are diverse and complex. There is enough evidence supporting the anticipated change in the dynamics of vector-borne diseases. To fight this battle, we need to devise effective mitigation strategies, which must include the following.

Commitment of Resources for Research: A sincere commitment and allocation of resources towards research is mandatory. A range of factors have been implicated in the emerging pattern of vector-borne diseases, warranting a coordinated research involving experts from the concerned fields, i.e. health care professionals, public health administrators, climatologists and biologists. Apart from providing improved diagnostic tools, characterization of vector and pathogen species and devising effective control measures, these studies can also enable us to forecast an epidemic which too will allow timely and efficient planning to combat such disaster.

Public Awareness: Humans are the host of pathogens mentioned above and the disease-transmitting vectors live in our houses, offices and schools. They are literally everywhere with us. Therefore, any effort aimed at controlling vector-borne diseases would be ineffective without active participation of population. In this connection, awareness regarding the potential habitats and biting habits of vectors and preventive measures should be made a compulsory part of any planning against vector-borne diseases, for example, extensive public awareness dengue control campaigns in the Punjab province.

Vector Control Measures: Targeted insecticidal sprays and habitat modification are the primary vector control measures. However, attention towards the vector control programs is often lax as evident by two recently reported incidents when inappropriate spray for controlling mosquitoes had put the lives of several school girls at risk. Such tasks must be dealt with caution and by taking all potential hazards into



consideration. Owing to the emergence of insecticide-resistant strains and potentially toxic side effects to humans, development of integrated techniques of vector management employing biological and environmental approaches should be given central importance in vector control programs.

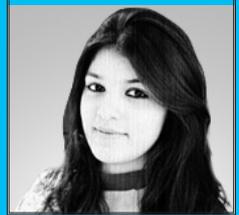
Improvements in Health Care Infrastructure: Establishment of accessible and efficient diagnostic centers and health care centers should stand among the topmost priorities in planning and development projects to save precious human lives.

Managing the vector-borne diseases is indeed challenging for Pakistan owing to unstable demographic and social factors, in addition to an environment prone to rapid population growth, war, migration and natural disasters. But to surrender in front of a challenge is not the trait of a valiant population. In order to survive we will have to accept this challenge; and the sooner the better, otherwise, as Robert G. Ingersoll has said, "In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments; there are only consequences"!

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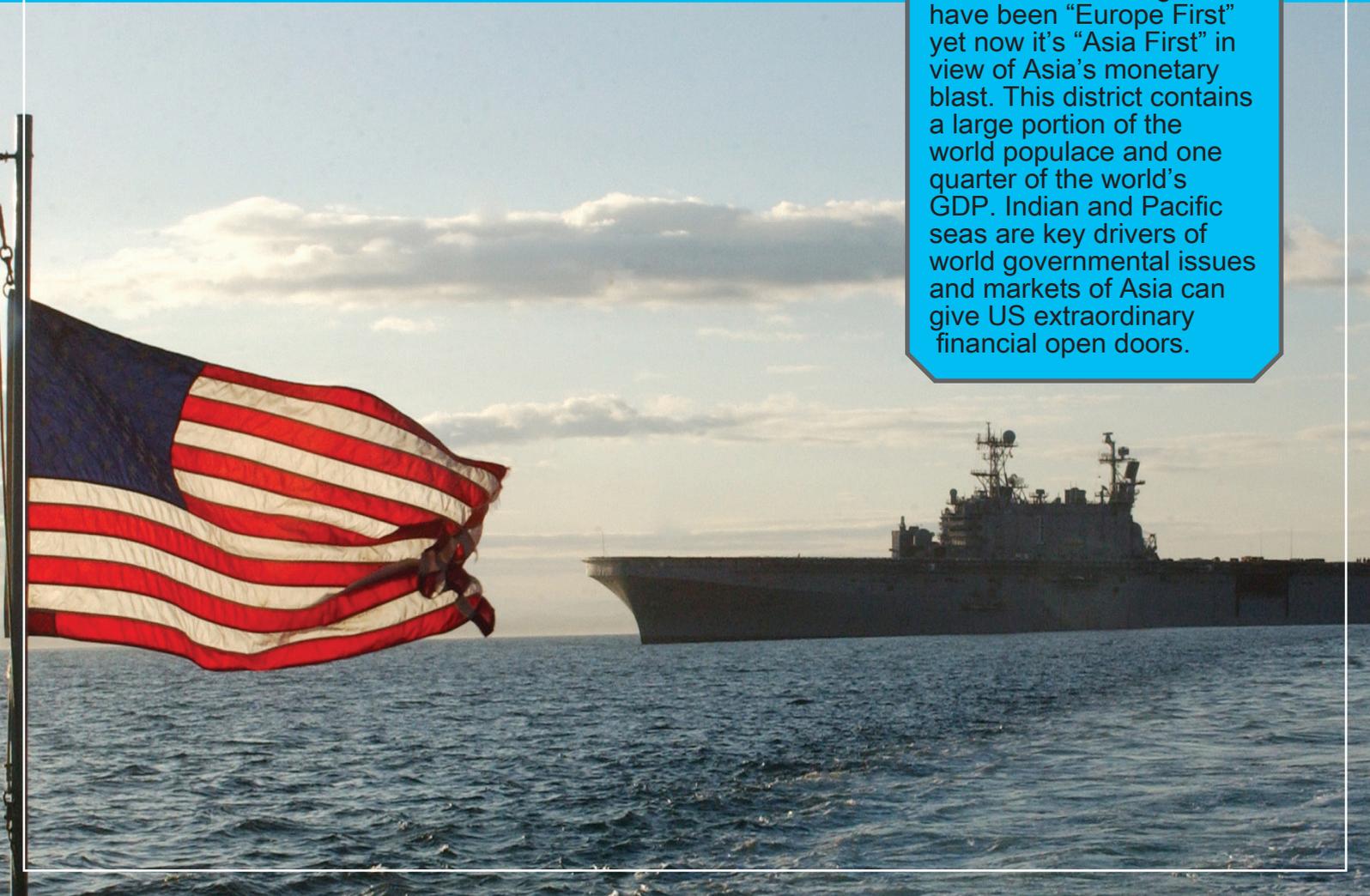
USA'S POLICY SHIFT TO PACIFIC: HURDLES FOR CHINA

by Sidra Khan



GEOSTRATEGY

As in the history, America's need might have been "Europe First" yet now it's "Asia First" in view of Asia's monetary blast. This district contains a large portion of the world populace and one quarter of the world's GDP. Indian and Pacific seas are key drivers of world governmental issues and markets of Asia can give US extraordinary financial open doors.



Introduction

At the end of the cold war since President George H. W. Bush's administration, the US authorities have been striving to counter the issue of China's rise. However, military commitment in Iraq and Afghanistan post 9/11 kept the USA occupied and thus it was unable to devise a balanced policy to massive China's challenge until the resumption of headquarters by President Obama in 2009.

The Obama administration's inventiveness is referred as US key movement or rebalances towards Asia Pacific. Imperative consideration draws attention to the fact that USA will review the governments in the Pacific region. Recapturing U.S prevalence in matters of economy with ceaseless backing over law and US democratic values as well as implementation of security in the region on request. The achievement of this standard transformation of key arrangement in Asia Pacific was launched with president Obama's administration homecoming to Asian procession. On assuming control over the organization, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and President Obama embraced a surprise excursion to Asia Pacific (for most part, US dignitaries on continuing office, lead first trip to European associates) conveying a solid message that the USA is back in the undertaking of Asia Pacific with US' first Pacific leader to direct them.

Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State separated the USA attempts in Asia Pacific in accordance with five standards:

- Fortifying of two-sided security organization together.
- Deeping operational relations with expanding forces and participation with multilateral local establishments.
- Increase in trade and speculation.

- Keeping up a wide based military vicinity.

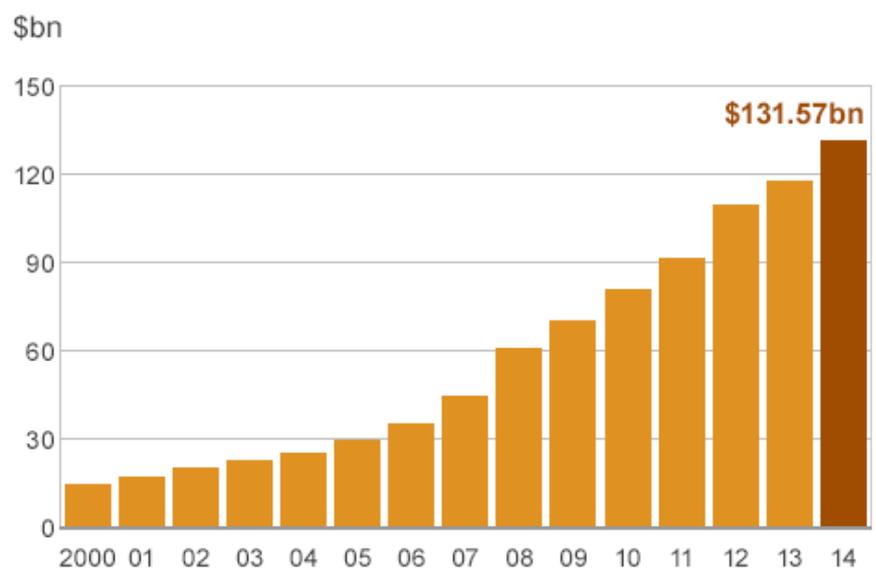
- Maintain human rights and fair standards.

Today times have changed and China is close to the level of competition with the U.S. USA being economically dependent on China, is in a position where there can be no conventional war. It is now projecting its power from Atlantic to the Pacific to create a parallel containment for China. John Mearsheimer, proponent of offensive realism describes this expansion of power done by the U.S. in order to contain China. USA is making alliances with other countries and spreading a net of influences all over the Pacific to ensure its power and to increase its influences.

kept up moderately prosperous economies. US required strong associates to back its authority. As in the history, America's need might have been "Europe First" yet now it's "Asia First" in view of Asia's monetary blast. This district contains a large portion of the world populace and one quarter of the world's GDP. Indian and Pacific seas are key drivers of world governmental issues and markets of Asia can give US extraordinary financial open doors.

Second purpose for US movement is that Clinton's government saw China as a key accomplice while the Bush organization considered China as a key contender. Hence it was a branch of Bush's policies aiming to reduce China's energy while making equalization.

China's military spending, 2000-2014



Analysts say total military spend may be significantly higher

Source: Chinese government/Reuters

Rebalancing: a Choice or a Necessity?

The monetary emergency of 2008 handicapped US economy and debilitated US authority everywhere throughout the world. Also in that unverifiable monetary circumstance, recently industrialized East Asian states

Third reason is that U.S needs to guarantee free route and ocean transport in this locale, on the grounds that more than 50% of the world exchange passes through this area. Strait of Malacca is a standout amongst the most imperative oceanic choke point. So US needs to reconnoiter these oceanic's courses with a

specific end goal to guarantee free developments.

Fourth variable is that in the history of US, it has happened for the first time that US is closer to energy creation and along these lines it needs to lighten its foot shaped impression in Middle East. So Asia Pacific district is not just deliberately an essential bit, it is additionally economically imperative for US. Consequently this district has been an alluring spot for venture, exchange and numerous different business operations.

China's Economic Ascendency

In the past China viewed itself as a poor and struggling nation. It was not false unobtrusiveness. In any case since the recent three decades China has risen in terms of monetary power not just in the district but also globally. From 1979 to 2013, China's GDP developed as a normal of give or take 10% yearly. China has been developing as a major worldwide monetary force. It is now the largest construct, merchandise exporter and possessor of foreign exchange

reserves. China now is the biggest economy force surpassing the USA.

China's quick economy development has prompted considerable increment in a two-sided concurrence with the USA. As per USA exchange in sequence, cumulative exchange between two nations urbanized \$5 in 1980 to an evaluated \$558 billion in 2013. China is the second biggest exchanging accomplice of the USA. Numerous business men are gone to China's blasting markets so as to offer their merchandise.

Moreover, China has likewise started some sub territorial ventures, for example, the Greater Mekong, the Merging of Beibu Gulf Economics Rim, the Nanning Economic Corridor, the East - West Economic Corridor, the River Regional Cooperation Operation, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Balancing Economic Growth and Environment Protection etc. While making progress in financial relations, China has bit by bit turned into a full dialogue part to nearly all the Southeast Asian political, monetary and security administrations. The way things

China's quick economy development has prompted considerable increment in a two-sided concurrence with the USA. As per USA exchange in sequence, cumulative exchange between two nations urbanized \$5 in 1980 to an evaluated \$558 billion in 2013.

are currently, China is essentially a variable that no Southeast Asian agenda can stand to disregard.

China's Regional Policy Guidelines

China longs its approach towards the Southeast Asian countries, ought to bring prospects of

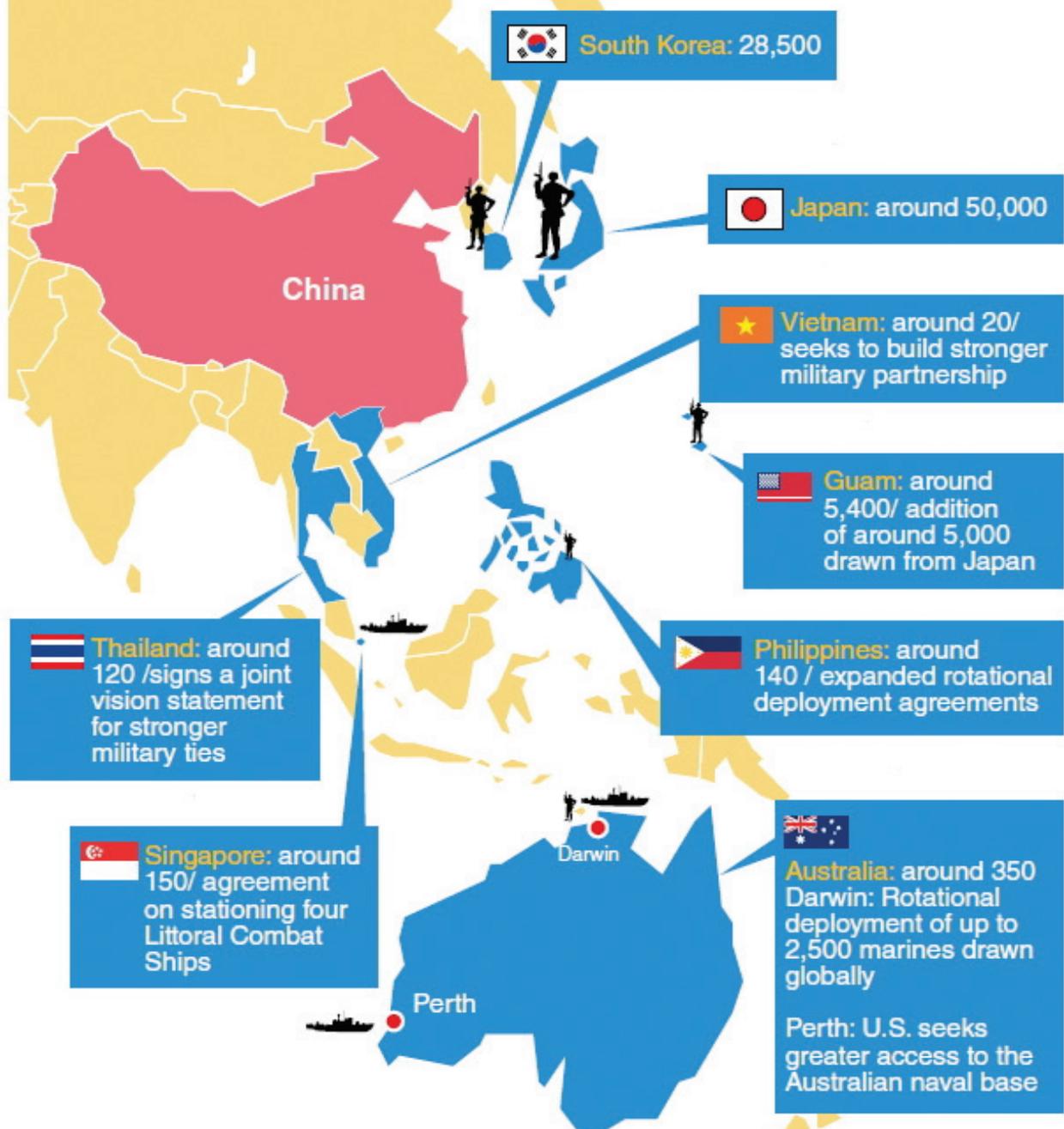
- A stable request along its southern outskirts to China's modernization mission.
- A tremendous commercial center for China's monetary advancement.
- A suitable environment to resolve the South China Sea regional question.
- Maintaining China's picture as a rising extraordinary force.
- A trial for China to show its extraordinary force ability and quality.

China Warming its Military Muscles

China has not been raised as a controlled economy, it has been growing as a military force. China is the greatest nation in the world with reference to populace, otherwise ordinarily greater than all nations aside from India. Fast managed modernization and industrialization throughout the following two to three decades is prone to change this agrarian state into a force



U.S. troop deployment under rebalancing policy



Graphic by Nam Kyung-don

Source: U.S. Defense Department

substance. Military is the principle segment of Chinese force and its initial responsibility is to assemble Comprehensive National Power (CNP). Also China's nuclear weapon capacity, its lasting status in the UNSC, the huge scale of its military and the significant part of the PLA in its neo-tyrant political framework along with

national security strategy puts it an exceptional place in the Asian security and strategic buildup.

American experts view China as an approaching danger for USA in view of its rejuvenation and extending power. It is thought to be the opponent and also surpass the United States in the future. Such

alarming thoughts were fanned with the new military plan of China in the financial year of 2014. China affirmed that it would improve its military plan for 2014 with a budget of \$131.56 billion. This news created uneasiness, engendered caution in Tokyo, Manila and also at the Pentagon. This quick development in the military could

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be marked as a dominant military vicinity in Asia. As per numerous examiners the development of PLA which incorporates Air and Navy barriers to be consistent of its economy plan, the second biggest economy on the planet, with growing military and energy, is likewise the second biggest behind the USA and the first military power extending in the Asia Pacific.

China's Stance on EEZ Disputes

Regardless of all endeavors, Chinese danger still reverberates in Southeast Asia. In spite of China's affirmation to Southeast Asian countries that they should not be apprehensive of its growing power yet the Southeast Asian countries depend on US security game plans. The Chinese powers were disenchanted by the Singapore statesmen Lee Kuan Yew's open appeal to US to keep up its vicinity in Southeast Asia and counter territorial impacts.

China maintains flexibility of route and over flight in the EEZ subjected to tranquil exercises nonthreatening security of beachfront countries. China has many times approached US for lessening its exercises of military reconnaissance boats and observation flights threatening China's EEZ. The US has precisely denied these allegations, keeping up that China misconstrued UNCLOS places with an aim to go up against the US. US keeps up that the UNCLOS places

confinements on moves of outside troops in 12nm regional waters, not in the EEZ. South China Sea clashes have likewise increased as opposed to creating some system for settlement of these regional debates.

China's Stance on Taiwan Issue

Militarily, China is forewarned that the DPP may secure closer ties with US in perspective of the US rebalancing to Asia Pacific. Taiwan issue radiates political and social uniqueness between the US – China, with China criticizing US for arms deals. Resultantly Sino - US dialogue on offers of weapon issue has constantly prompted beyond reconciliation squabble from time to time.

In the financial stadium, Taiwan's participation in US supported TTP concerns China as it would help Taiwan in picking up universal acknowledgement (the DPP and KMT holds solitary enthusiasm towards this angle).

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Conclusion: Beijing's Strategies to Counter Response to Washington's Implications





Sino - US engagement is an intricate and confounded issue in Asia Pacific. Nonetheless it is barely conceivable that both states contend in worldwide regions, where there is better open door that UN authorizations are in place or encounter is over less noteworthy investment. Subsequently, both states could undoubtedly coordinate in these locales. Sino - US are in immediate clash in Asia Pacific since both offer dissimilar investment and it is extreme for littler territorial states to intercede and settle remarkable issues agreeably. Keeping in view the current environment of force move, it is hard for both states to follow one another on clashing issues. Accordingly US vital reorientation in the locale will hold China under consistent weight over its center issues.

This is no mystery that China

is upgrading its military plan in the wake of security dangers confronted by it from provincial adversaries and also its global opponent, America. In any case what is alarming for policy makers in Washington is that Chinese intensions can't be debilitated on the grounds that the West, itself is utilizing and upgrading innovative military gears to increase its hegemony over the globe. On the off chance that the examination of military use by the top militaries on the planet is led that it turns out obviously that USA is on top position and China keeping in the footsteps of USA is yet to be a force to be reckoned with.

Hsin-Huang in his book "Rise of China: Beijing's strategies and Implications for Asia Pacific" gave detail and reasons that it's because of US provoking China to put intensely in military

to adapt the raise test to the very presence of Chinese state itself. Just reprimanding China for its activities in the ocean is a selfish move by the West. China's vicinity along worldwide sea lines of communication (SLOC) is not according to the vicinity of US in the high oceans.

The finical strength is empowering China to counter the activities and policies by U.S. in the locale. Nonetheless it is the perspective of the researchers in Beijing that for affirming in the worldwide stadium first China needs to attest itself in the locale where it is confronting difficulties from the states which are adjusting themselves against China and even stretch out to have security settlements with U.S. and Australia, also the prime case is Taiwan which is directing its strategies directly under the nose of PLA. It is clear that U.S. and China are at war of assets. Chinese ascent is abating however it can't be stated whether it's improving its vicinity and part in the governmental issues of locale encompassing it or not. Nonetheless, the force and military of the USA can't be underestimated as the USA as of now is managing the roots of governmental issues in the world regardless of the world moving towards multi extremity rather than unipolar plan of force.

Sidra Khan is currently pursuing her Mphil in International Relations at the National Defense University. She has dedicated her work towards the security aspects within South Asia and Asia Pacific. She also has expertise on Middle East, the Gulf Region, Pak-Iran Relations and Trans-Atlantic Relations.



SAFFRON TERROR:

THE RISING TIDE OF MILITANT HINDUTVA

Hindutva is considered by many scholars, including Dr Ram Punyani, as a reaction of High caste Hindus against the lower caste Dalit awakening. Therefore, even now the ideology is famous among high caste Hindus, although now it has also started spreading in Indian urban centers.



Famed Kannada scholar MM Kalburgi was shot dead at his home in Dharwad on the morning of 30th August, 2015 by two assailants on a motorcycle. The identity of the assailants the motives behind the murder are unknown at this point. Kalburgi was in hot waters with Hindutva activists hunting him for hurting "Hindu sentiments" and a former head of Sri Ram Sena, a fringe group notorious for moral policing, was taken into custody by the Mangalore police after posting a tweet celebrating the murder.

Kalburgi is one of a long line of activists murdered due to their opposition to certain religious practices prevalent in India. Another noteworthy news item is the bail of Swami Aseemanand, the main accused in a string of bomb blasts including the Samjhauta Express Train bombing. In the Kerala state of India, the socialist CPI(M) and the ruling BJP party who are considered religious rightwing have been engaged in a state of armed conflict with hundreds of workers

on both sides being killed. In other parts of India, minorities, primarily the Muslims, have been on the receiving end of various discriminatory practices like ban on beef consumption and cow slaughter as well as facing violence.

Many have started to point towards this worrying trend and asserted it to be a part of the rise of saffron terror or Militant Hindutva. Saffron terrorism is the use of violence or threat of violence, inspired by Hindutva, which is the predominant form of Hindu nationalism in India as well as Nepal. A proper overview of Saffron Terror groups is required, in order to analyze the threats of Saffron terrorism.

THE IDEOLOGY OF HINDUTVA

Hindutva, or "Hinduness", a term coined by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, in 1923, is the main driving force behind Saffron terror in India and

While some commentators consider Saffron terrorism to be a recent phenomenon caused by the rise of Muslim militancy, this assertion is negated by the formation of RSS even before partition, and its path of violence through the decades after.

Nepal. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, Hindutva is an ideology seeking to establish the hegemony of Hindus and the Hindu way of life, and according to the Encyclopedia Britannica, "Hindutva (or Hinduness) is an ideology that seeks to define Indian culture in terms of Hindu values". Hindutva revolves around the following principles:

- The entire Indo-Pak subcontinent, (which includes countries ranging from Afghanistan to Indonesia), is the homeland of the Hindus.
- "Hindus" are those who believe India is their fatherland (pitribhumi) and holyland (punyabhumi).
- Emphasizing historical "oppression" of Hindus by other groups like the Muslims and the Christians and aiming to "reverse" the influence resulting from these intrusions.
- Opposing British colonialism (though RSS actively collaborated with the British against other liberation movements and remained aloof from the freedom struggle).
- Opposing communism because it caused weakness of unity among Hindus.
- A call to form a "Hindu nation" (Hindu rashtra).
- Cow slaughter in India should be banned.
- Sanskrit should be taught compulsorily to all students.
- Most modern scientific discoveries were known and described in the Vedas.

Hindutva is advocated to have been established in Nagpur, Maharashtra through the formation of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh or RSS (National Volunteer Organization or National Patriotic Organization). Hindutva is considered by many scholars, including Dr Ram Punyani, as a reaction of High caste Hindus against the lower caste Dalit awakening. Therefore, even now the ideology is famous among high caste Hindus, although now it has also started spreading in Indian urban centers.

MILITANT HINDUTVA

As discussed above, Saffron Terror is an analogy

used to describe acts of terrorism motivated by Hindu nationalism or Hindutva. Praveen Swami coined the term, in 2002, in a Frontline magazine article. The Indian government used the term the first time when former Home Minister of India P. C. Jaidam urged Indians to beware of "Saffron terror" in August 2010 at a meeting of state police chiefs in New Delhi. Most of such acts are perpetrated by members, or alleged members of Hindutva organizations as well as lone wolves.

Acts of Saffron terrorism as well as famous examples includes:

ASSASSINATION

Murder of Gandhi by Nathuram Godse, a former RSS member.

INTIMIDATION

Beating of Muslim youth by Bajrang Dal activists over talking to a Hindu girl.

DEMOLITION OF MONUMENTS

The demolition of the Babri Masjid by RSS, BJP, Shiv Sena and VHP activists.

RIOTS

The Gujarat pogrom against Muslims by a variety of Hindutva activists.

BOMB BLASTS

Bombing of the Samjhauta Express by Abhinav Bharat.

SAFFRON TERROR IN INDIA

India occupies a significant place in Hindutva ideology. After all it has the world's largest Hindu population and is the birthplace of the Hindutva ideology, as well as housing several Hindu holy sites. While some commentators consider Saffron terrorism to be a recent phenomenon caused by the rise of Muslim militancy, this assertion is negated by the formation of RSS even before partition, and its path of violence through the decades after.

A militant landscape of Saffron terror groups can be formulated consisting of:



SANGH PARIVAR

Sangh Parivar translates into Family of Associations. The Sangh Parivar is a network of Hindutva organizations with the same ideological goal of implementing Hindutva agenda and often overlapping membership which gravitate around the RSS.

The Sangh Parivar contains a total of at least 52 affiliated organizations which can be categorized into.

- Political
- Occupational & Professional
- Economic
- Exclusively Women
- Religious
- Educational
- Socio-ethnic

- News & Communication
- Think Tanks
- Overseas
- Others

The main groups of the Sangh Parivar include:

1- The most famous of the Sangh Parivar include the **RSS** that is often called the main command centre of the Sangh Parivar, which effectively uses its 3000+ full time volunteers as front line personnel in riots and other violent acts.

2- **The Bharitya Janata Party** (BJP) or Indian People's Party is called the political wing of the RSS and has been found complicit in violent acts, primarily riots against both minorities and political rivals. It is now in power with Narendra Damodardas Modi as the prime Minister, who is alleged to have played a key role in the 2002 Gujarat Pogrom.

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3- **The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP)**, or World Hindu Council is the organization for Hindu priests, which has used violence in riots, as well as demolition of monuments.

4- The **Bajrang Dal** or Army of Hanuman often called the foot soldiers of Hindutva is often cited to be the most violent of all Sangh Parivar groups, often partaking in riots, murders and public lynching, as well as bomb blasts, since its inception in 1984.

5- **The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF)** is an Indian public policy think-tank affiliated to the Vivekananda Kendra, which is in turn a charitable organization affiliated to the RSS. Although not actively engaged in violence itself, it is a great proponent of state sponsored terrorism,

and actively advocates support for terrorists in India's neighbors. The VIF has now supplied the Indian government with high level bureaucrats like National Security Advisor Ajit Doval

LOCAL ALLIES

Local allies are those entities which are allied to the Sangh Parivar, and may or may not fully follow the ideology of Hindutva, and are not under the direct control of the RSS. Most of these are local groups, such as political parties who ally with the Sangh Parivar due to shared interests or acquisition of other benefits in pursuing a joint agenda. They often bolster Sangh Parivar ranks by supplying men and material during times of need, as well as carrying out violent actions on their own.

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National Security Adviser

AJIT DOVAL



Additional Principal Secretary

P K MISHRA



Principal Secretary

NRIPENDRA MISRA



- The **Shiv Sena** or Army of Shiva is an Indian far-right regional political party, founded on 19 June 1966, by political cartoonist Bal Thackeray. The party originally emerged from a movement in Mumbai demanding preferential treatment for Maharashtrians over migrants to the city. Its ideology primarily based on Marathi nationalism turned to Hindutva. It is infamous for using threats and violence as a favored means of tackling opposition and criticism as well as political goals. It has also vowed to train “Hindu suicide squads” for attacks into Pakistan.

- **Sanatan Sanstha** or the Eternal System was founded in 1990 by Jayant Balaji Athavale. It is based on the study of spirituality as a science. It has arranged “Hindu Awakening” conferences to create a feeling of unity and fraternal solidarity amongst all Hindus. The current leader has started to ally with Hindutva, evidently, by calling for the establishment of a “Hindu rashtra”. Its activists have been caught while trying to bomb targets in Vashi and Goa, and being the prime suspect in the killing of a political leader Govind Pansare.

SPLINTER CELLS

Splinter Cells are those groups, which although fully follow the Hindutva ideology, but have rebelled against the RSS control, and now follow an independent path in implementing the Hindutva agenda. Hindutva Splinter cells have emerged to be the most violent of saffron terror groups even going as far as targeting the Sangh Parivar for its

“ideological betrayal” to the Hindutva cause.

- **Abhinav Bharat** or Young India is named after Abhinav Bharat Society made by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in 1903, and dismantled in 1952. Formed by renegade leaders of the RSS and other Hindutva groups as well as Indian military intelligence officer Col Purohit. Its driving force was a Hindu Rashtra with its own constitution and flag, for which it was prepared to separate from India. Its extremist mindset could be ascertained through its intent to kill RSS and other Sangh leaders as punishment. The group’s lethality was augmented by military grade equipment, as well as, military personnel in its rank. It left a trail of destruction all over India with bombings and murders, such as the murder of Abhinav Bharat member ex-RSS leader Sunil Joshi.

LONE WOLF

“A lone wolf or lone-wolf terrorist is someone who commits violent acts in support of some group,

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movement, or ideology, but does so alone, outside of any command structure, and without material assistance from any group. Although the lone wolf prepares and acts alone, he/she may be influenced or motivated by the ideology and beliefs of an external group.” In this case the movement or ideology is Hindutva.

- The most famous example of a Hindutva lone wolf is Nathuram Vinayak Godse (19 May 1910 – 15 November 1949). He was a militant Hindutva activist behind the assassination of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. He shot Gandhi in the chest three times at point-blank range with a Beretta M 1934 semi-automatic pistol, on 30 January 1948, in New Delhi. Born in Pune, Maharashtra, he had been a member of the RSS and Hindu Mahasabha. Nathuram left RSS in the early 1940s to form a militant organization Hindu Rashtra Dal. However, Nathuram’s brother, Gopal Godse — who was also a co-accused in the Gandhi assassination— has asserted that Nathuram continued to be a member of the RSS. Nathuram resented Gandhi’s accommodating attitude to India’s Muslims and plotted the assassination with Narayan Apte and six others. After a trial that lasted over a year, Godse was sentenced to death on 8 November 1949, and

Nepal occupies an important position in the ideology of Hindutva, it was the only Hindu state in recent existence during the time of the monarchy who ardently tried to implement Hindutva’s “One faith, one language, one state” agenda to cement their own rule.

was hanged a week later.

SAFFRON TERROR IN NEPAL

Nepal occupies an important position in the ideology of Hindutva, it was the only Hindu state in recent existence during the time of the monarchy who ardently tried to implement Hindutva’s “One faith, one language, one state” agenda to cement their own rule. The Nepali state’s ties to Hindutva grew in the 1960s, after King Mahendra overthrew an elected government, and established the autocratic Panchayat system, and started using Hindutva to offset secular opposition from within and without. Mahendra’s successor, Birendra, continued to maintain the ‘Hindu kingdom’ agenda. After Birendra’s killing in 2000, the new king Gyanendra, sought to utilize Hindutva after he assumed the throne in 2001, meeting Indian religious leaders along with those of the RSS and its affiliates. In April 2006, crippling mass demonstrations in Kathmandu ultimately forced King Gyanendra to step down and hand power to SPA. Maoists fighting Hindutva then declared a ceasefire. On 18 May 2006, Nepal’s new parliament publicly declared that Nepal would no longer be a Hindu Kingdom but a secular state. An interim government was formed that included the Maoists.

Nepal’s Hindutva (Hindu nationalist) elements, with backing from Hindutva forces in India, immediately increased their intolerant rhetoric, and exploited the confusion of the Nepalese Hindu masses, in order to reverse the declaration of secularism. Instead of Muslims, the main targets of Nepalese Hindutva



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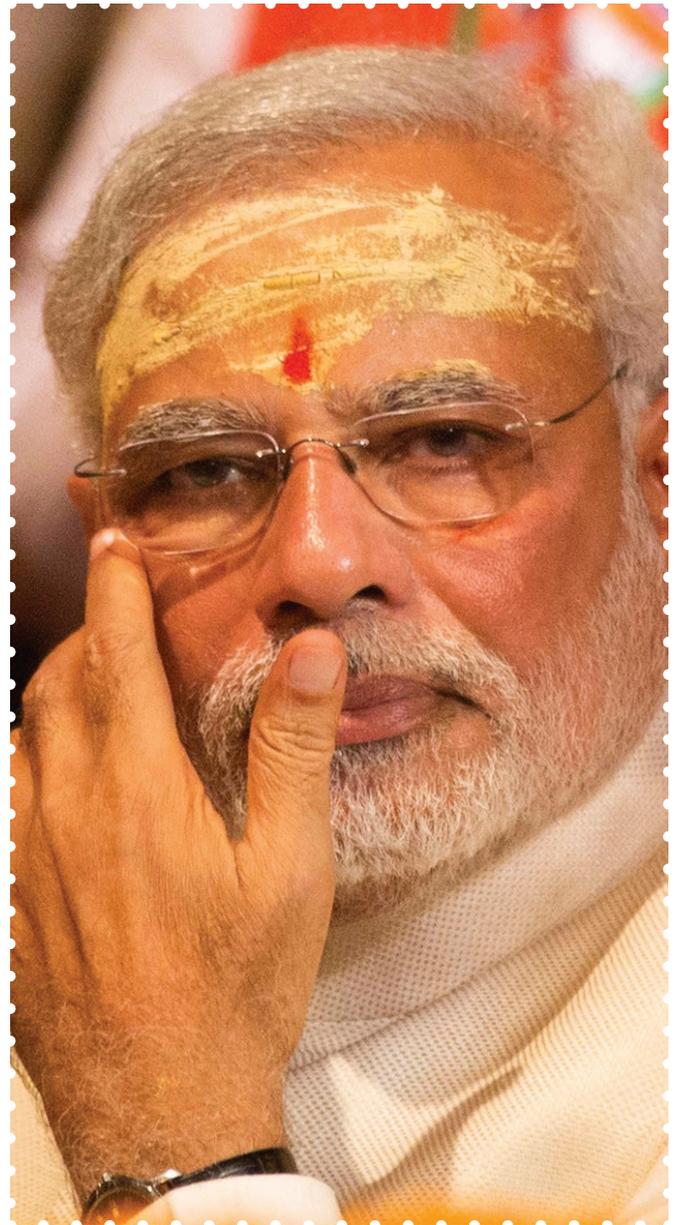
were “Christian missionaries” who were behind the secular state declaration.

Hindutva groups in Nepal encompass the **Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS)** formed in 1992 by Nepalese students inspired by the RSS. The HSS demands a return to a Hindu state, calling for an end to cow slaughter, and a law ensuring that only Hindus can be appointed to the country's highest posts. Further, while the group posits itself as a non-violent movement, its members emphasize that they have a right to “self-defence”, an excuse often used by Indian saffron terror groups to commit violence. Political Hindutva is manifested in the **Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (Nepal)**, a party with four seats in the Constituent Assembly. It demands a reinforcement of the 1990 constitution, which ensured a constitutional monarchy in a Hindu state.

Saffron terror group who have evolved into far more deadlier strains of violence are Nepal Defence Army (NDA) and the Ranvir Sena (Nepal). The shadowy NDA was formed by Ram Prasad Mainali, a former Maoist, with the main aim to restore Nepal's Hindu monarchy. It was responsible for a string of bombings that targeted mosques, colleges, business centers and government offices, as well as assassinations of prominent personalities, like college principals and intellectuals, before being busted by authorities in September 2009. The Ranvir Sena, which shares its name with the landlord militia fighting Naxalites in Bihar India, desired to reinstate Hinduism as the state religion. Formed by Vinod Kumar Pandey, a 41-year-old civil engineer, who received his degree from Chennai, the group used the Internet to get knowhow about explosives and used a rented house as a laboratory besides being involved in extortion, abduction and blasts in the Terai plains. This group too was arrested in 2009 before it could enact a bombing campaign throughout Nepal.

SAFFRON STORM CLOUDS GATHERING ONCE AGAIN.

The increasing level of Saffron terror groups, particularly with a Hindutva government in power, raises the stakes of a Saffron terror surge. Other groups like Muslims and Buddhists are facing their



own militants, and saffron terror can highly aggravate the situation. Indeed, Saffron Terror's targeting of Pakistan has made it more than an internal Indian problem with the Samjhauta bombings. Rahul Gandhi considers the RSS more dangerous than the Lashkar-e-Taiba, while Nepalese fear for religious harmony with the rise of Hindutva. It is pertinent that stakeholders across the region start paying attention to Militant Hindutva as it could become a major security threat in the near future, if not the present. Perhaps, the greatest casualty of militant Hindutva will be the beautiful and peaceful religion of Hinduism, if this threat is not tackled in time.

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Pak-US Ties:

Chequered History and a Troubled Future

GEOSTRATEGY

The devastating culmination of World War II had a significant bearing on the anatomy of world politics. Britain no longer remained a power that could dictate world order. The Great War was supplanted by a protracted tussle between USA and USSR. Popularly known as the Cold War, the clash between the two superpowers was different in regards strategy, operations and tactics. It was no longer about troop deployment for set-piece ground combats or strategic air bombings, but it was about increasing sphere of influences, espionages, economic doctrines or engineering coups for that matter. Regardless of the nature of war, the aim remains the same: Subduing the adversary.

Both USSR and USA groped for willing allies who could serve their interests. Convergence of strategic national interests is paramount in establishing ties. This is the only set principle in the otherwise brutal and anarchical world of international politics.

The start of the Cold War coincided with the partition of the Sub-continent, when two independent states, namely India and Pakistan adorned the map of the globe. Pakistan was located in proximity to China



by Syed Ali Zia Jaffery

of the Arabian Sea. Geographical placement made the country strategically important. Winning over Pakistan was imperative for the Americans to thwart the Communist surge, especially given Nehru's socialist leanings.

Pakistan was in dire need of an ally which could help in bolstering her defense capabilities against a bellicose eastern neighbor— India, in wake of the simmering Kashmir fiasco. The nascent state, therefore, looked towards the United States, but the response was piecemeal. However, figures like John Foster Dulles and Paul Nitze broached upon the need to knit strategic ties with Pakistan. The impending, mutually-beneficial partnership thrived; Pakistan became a benign ally, and a bulwark against Communism. Defense treaties exclusively with the United States, and being a party to SEATO and CENTO, Pakistan developed a cohesive and lethal fighting force. Pakistan allowed the US to use its territory to carry out reconnaissance and surveillance missions; Badaber base being a case in point, from where U 2 planes were flown to gather intelligence.

Notwithstanding the opportunity costs of the alliance, Pakistan gained immensely. The country was in a position to fend-off its arch-rival India, which happened to be the leitmotif of hobnob.

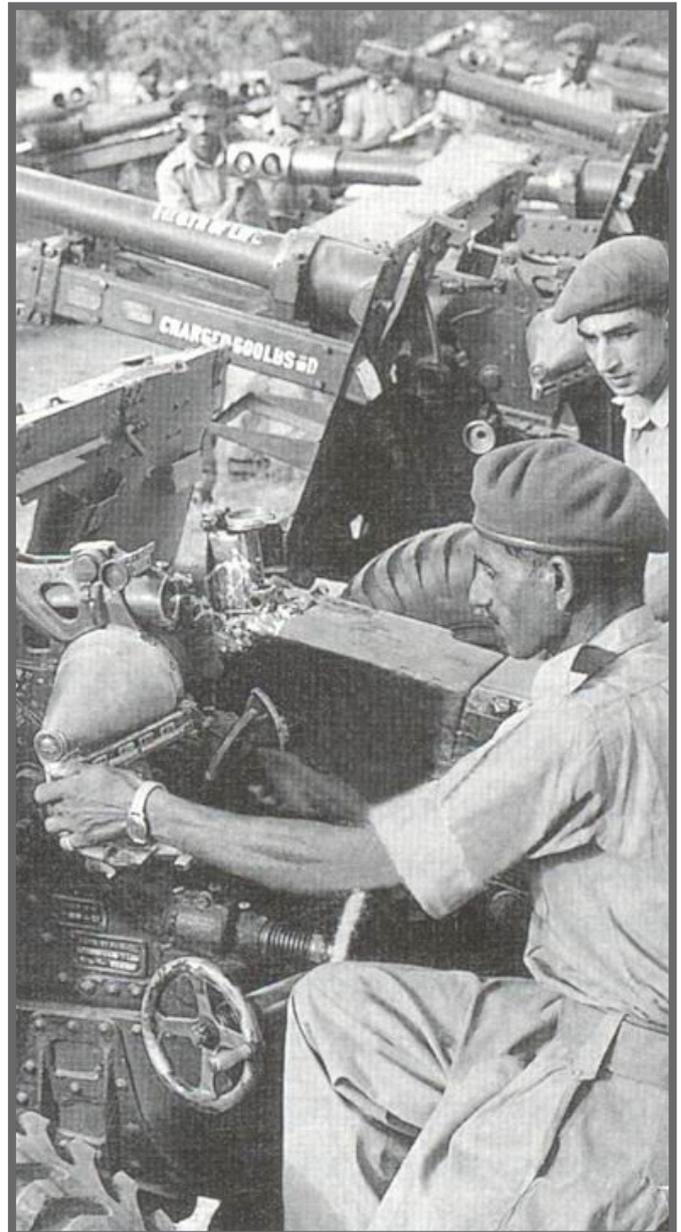
Ties deteriorated with the changing geopolitics of the region, and America's overall strategic focus. Pakistan was chided for using US aid to enhance its military power to counter India, and there were even voices calling for courting India. The Indian defeat in the Sino-Indo war, in 1962, propelled the US to counter the Chinese menace by strengthening the hands of India. Furthermore, the 1965 war dented the alliance badly. The US administration deemed Pakistan as the aggressor, while Pakistan was aghast at the lackluster support by a "friend" at the time when its territorial security was jeopardized.

During and after the 1965 war, relations between both countries were at the lowest ebb, but changing milieus again brought Pakistan forward as a linchpin in the new strategy, orchestrated by Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger. The infamously famous "tilt", albeit tactical, was there for all to see during the East Pakistan crisis and the Indo-Pak war of 1971. Pakistan became a conduit for the watershed détente between USA and China. The US, with the deployment of their 7th fleet and skilful diplomacy by

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Kissinger, greatly deterred India.

Pakistan's security hypothesis is centered on it being attacked by India. The unfavorable military equation, which came to the fore after the 1971 war, continues to dictate Pakistan's strategic thought. The so-called Peace Nuclear Explosion (PNE) carried out by India in 1974 increased Pakistan's insecurity and also the quest to go nuclear. This again created fissures between the two countries. The Carter Administration foisted embargoes on Pakistan as part of efforts to



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roll back the nuclear program. The Bhutto regime was fast-becoming a pariah, and Pakistan was no longer the main cog in America's Cold War strategy.

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In the process, Pakistan ameliorated its defense apparatus, and was on the cusp of developing a nuclear weapon. Again, Pakistan was able to garner what it wanted from being America's first line of defense against Communism in the region. Indian attempts at brinkmanship, through planning attacks on nuclear sites and the exercise-cum build-up (Brass tacks), were foiled, as Pakistan had acquired the muscle to withstand an Indian onslaught. The US was able to defeat its nemesis on behest of a marriage of convenience with Pakistan.

However, the abrupt disengagement of the US from the region was a blow to Pakistan as it was left to deal with in-fighting and power scuffle in Afghanistan. Despite peace accords, the Afghan imbroglio was not mitigating. The takeover of Kabul by the Taliban was attributed to Pakistani efforts to subvert the country to gain "strategic depth", something which is misconstrued in its entirety. The epoch was typified with sanctions over Pakistan's forays in the nuclear realm and the insurgency in Kashmir, and Pakistan felt betrayed and isolated. Both India and Pakistan detonated the bomb in the summer of 1998. Pakistan circumvented pressure, and bore the brunt to add a deterrent in its repertoire. Sanctions meant that relations with the US were again at a nadir.

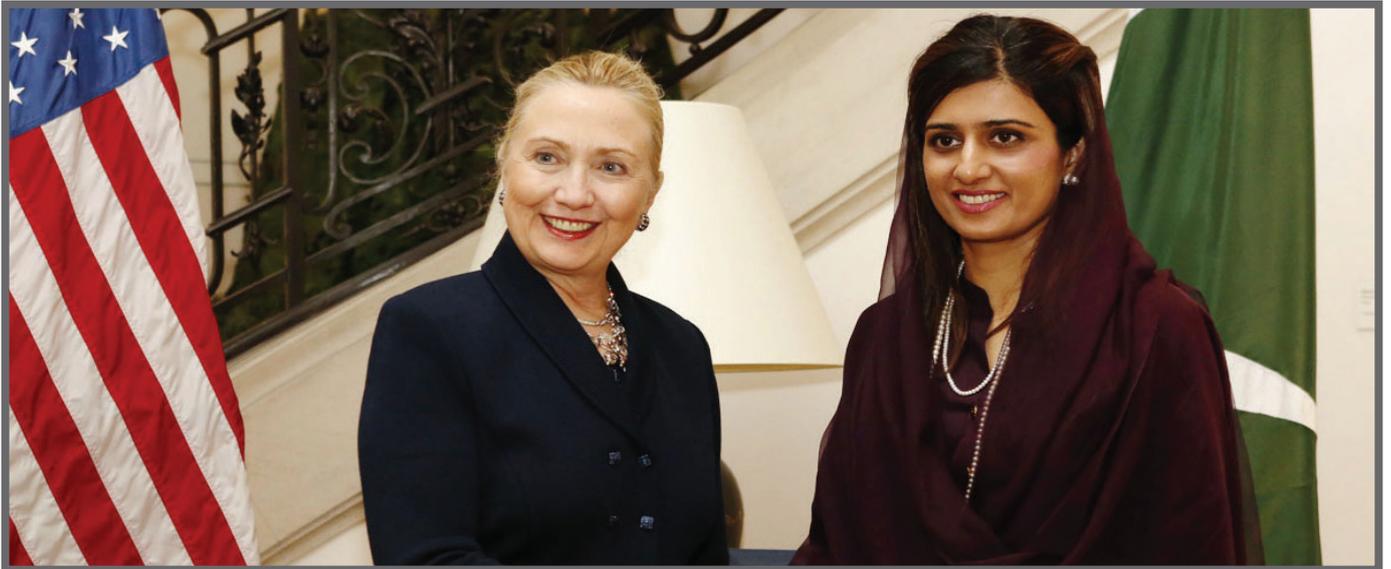


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The Indian factor dictated the nature of ties between the two states. Pakistan allied with the US to externally balance itself vis-à-vis India. America brokered a cease fire in the Kargil issue where the deterrence value of the nuclear arsenal was put to test.

Fast-forward to 2001, Pakistan became a frontline ally in the Global War on Terror. Erstwhile policies of the Pakistani establishment, which were essential to attain a foothold in Afghanistan, were reversed amidst criticism from conservative sections of society. Whereas foreign aid propelled Pakistan's economic revival, the strategic alliance in wake of the cataclysmic events of 9/11 had colossal costs for Pakistan. The spillover of Operation Enduring Freedom came in shape of terrorism which continues to impede the country's growth.

The Pakistan Army has carried out successful



CTMILOPS in the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan where NATO-ISAF forces despite an extensive military campaign has failed to deter miscreants. Over the course of the last 14 years, America blamed Pakistan for much of its follies— be it sidelining Pashtuns in the make-up of the Afghan National Army, or the ill-timed troop surge— the accusations of “double game” and demands of “do more” have been the hallmark of Pak-US ties in the last few years. Events like the Raymond Davis Case, Salalah Attack or the Abbotabad raid dealt a severe blow to strategic ties.

But such occurrences have not been the main hitch. The Indo-Pak rivalry being festering in the Afghan theatre will determine the future of Pak US ties. Indian strategic investment in Kabul is detrimental to Pakistan’s interests. Intelligence leads of brutal terrorist attacks in the country suggest that the Afghan soil is a safe haven for operational planners and two of the most wanted commanders, namely Mullah Fazlullah and Mangalbagh Afridi. The nexus of the spy agencies of India and Afghanistan will try to obviate Pakistan’s influence in Afghanistan. The likely resurgence of the Taliban will sever ties with the US as it will ascribed on Pakistan’s half-hearted counter terrorism operations to camouflage “favorites”

As mentioned earlier, India by virtue of being Pakistan’s major foreign policy preoccupation will steer Pak-US ties. The burgeoning size of the Indian economy at the advent of the 21st century compelled

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the United States to collaborate with Pakistan’s eastern neighbor. The most worrisome development for Pakistan was the signing of a civilian nuclear deal between the US and India. Most certainly, the dual use of nuclear technology and the ease of switching to military uses of uranium makes this civilian nuclear deal a game changer in the power balance between India and Pakistan. The decade-long New Framework of Defense Relationship (NFDR) should be a cause of concern for the Pakistani security establishment. India’s growing clout is helping it win over allies, which is allowing it to flex its muscles against weaker states in the region. Incendiary statements backed by pinpricks on the Line of Control/ Working Boundary and diplomatic offensive in the United Nations have once again strained relations between the two arch-rivals.

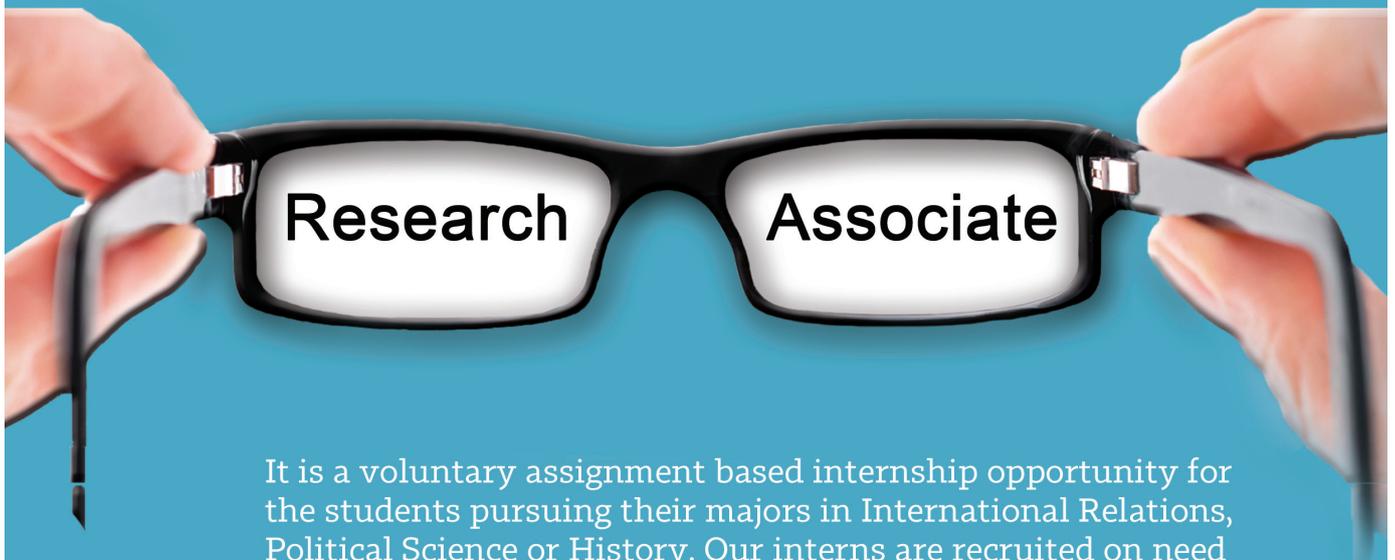
As tensions increase with India, Pakistan is likely to tread in muddy waters with the US, for the latter considers India as an important strategic and economic partner. Pakistan, marred by instability and terrorism is resiliently bouncing back, which has to be pressed upon the international community. The likely chaotic milieu in Afghanistan and ramping-up tussle with India do not augur well for the tenuous Pak-US ties to move forward in the right direction, in which both countries can gain from the state-level camaraderie, so to speak.

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