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現代の中東・イスラム世界への視点

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サウジアラビア を訪ねて

サダム・フセイン政権後の湾岸の安全保障

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Bush Administration Policy in the Middle East (A phase of the American Domination of the World) Sameera Rajab (Bahrain)

Introduction:

A diligent observer of the affairs in the Middle East for the period commencing with the 1973 war would notice several features, which indicate that the events currently taking place in the region are not the outcome of the policies adopted by Mr. George Bush Jr., and that the American political institutions have not started to formulate and implement their plans for the Middle East with the establishment of George Bush, Jr. Administration, i.e. during last two years. These plans and strategies have been formulated in a previous era dating back to 1990 during the Gulf Crisis, and the atrocious war waged by the United States of America against Iraq in 1991. Accordingly, it could be confirmed that the events currently taking place in the Arab World and the plans implemented by the Bush administration constitute a phase in the strategy formulated for the region with a view of controlling the oil resources of the world and the establishment of the US as the dominating power of oil resources which can control its extraction, export, pricing and reserves. Thus, strengenthing the position of the U.S as a super power and the first economic power in the new global order and the new empire, which will be capable of controlling the world economy.

Objective local studies have confirmed these obvious indications of the American strategy to control the Arab oil which came as a result of the Arab resolution to stop oil export in order to exert pressure on the western countries in favour of the Arab countries in their war against Israel in 1973. This had its impact on certain decisions, which were not in favour of the U.S and Israel in that war. It has also drawn the world's attention to this vital source of power. This was confirmed by Mr. Henry Kessinger, the ex-American Secretary of State after the 1973 war in his writings on the importance of oil to world economy and its use as a weapon in territorial conflicts. This was considered as a direct threat to global and U.S interests. Accordingly, plans were formulated for military intervention for the control of oil resources in order to protect American interests and prevent the repetition of such action. This led to the creation of an intersection between the interests of U.S in the control of oil resources and the interest of the State of Israel in completing its occupation of Palestinian lands and putting an end to all forms of rejection to the existence of the Hebrew state which was

planted in the region. This should be achieved through the weakening the Arab regimes and Arab resolution to the extent of accepting this fact with total lack of any capability or strategic weapon for self defense against any aggression by a foreign power.

The 1973 war was the prelude for signing the Camp David Accord between Egypt and Israel. This agreement was detrimental to the Palestinian rights and forced Egypt to normalize its relations with Israel. As a result of this Israel was able to achieve peace with one of the most crucial fronts i.e. the Egyptian front, and Israel was subsequently able to devote all its efforts for other Arab states. Accordingly, this Agreement caused a fracture in the unity of the Arab countries in their attitude towards the Palestinian problem and the Hebrew state was able to extract its first Arab recognition as a sovereign entity.

The 1973 war was followed by negative developments in the Arab countries starting with high returns from oil sales, which changed, drastically the social, economic and cultured life style of the people, the first and second Gulf war, the Lebanese civil war which lasted for 18 years and the occupation of southern Lebanon by Israel and the massacres committed by the Israeli army in Beirut. All these developments in addition to certain other incidents which may not be covered here in detail lead to the conclusion that the region is gradually coming into focus for the American administration and in intersection point between American and Israeli interests in the region. A linkage was established between the American strategy to control the oil resources and the Israeli desire to bring to an end the Arab resistance and rejection to the Hebrew state.

American Strategy Subsequent to the Cold War:

The above introduction is required for explaining of the developments in the region which started to evolve by the end of the cold war era and the fall of the communist regime in the USSR in the late 1980s and the independence of its oil rich republics. This led the American administration to expand its strategies with a view of moving into central Asia and controlling the oil resources there before any other global power considers making a similar move and in particular China, Japan and India with their geographical proximity.

The commencement was in the statement made by James Baker, the Secretary of State in George Bush, Senior administration who declared upon the end of the cold war era that time had come for a political reshaping of the region and indicating a new era in America's foreign policy as a sole super power which owns the will and ability to carry out changes which serve its interests in all parts of the world, with special focus on the oil rich Arab countries. Accordingly, it was obvious that the American forces which were deployed in 1990 were in fact there to stay.

The current American policy, under the administration of George Bush, Jr. with its insistence on imposing American domination of the Arab countries represent in fact a phase in the establishment of the United States of America as the sole leader of the global order which develops it from a temporary arrangement into a constant regime which is planned to last for decades. The American decision to strike Iraq is one step in the implementation of such policies which is preceded by and will be followed by other steps.

Intersection between American and Israeli Interests:

The policy of George Bush, Jr. administration which is based on the creation of the international terrorism crisis(of which the 9/11 incident forms one of its episodes) to replace the deposed communist regime as the supposed enemy and to provide a pretext for the invasion of Afghanistan to secure the transport lines for oil which the giant American oil companies were able to control its resources in Central Asia. This supposed enemy was also used in the creation of the serious confrontation between the Americans and the Iraqis on the one hand and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the other. This scenario is being used to create a crisis which should lead to the termination of the existing Iraqi regime and control of the strategically important Iraq with its oil riches under the American administration. Subsequently, Iraq will be used as a base for imposing American domination over other parts of the region and over Iran, Turkey and all other powers which combine to form the resistance to the Israeli occupation. This forms the point of intersection between American and Israeli interests in the termination of all forms of resistance to the Israeli existence in the region and the solution of the Palestinian issue in a manner, consistent with the realization of Israeli objectives.

Based on the foregoing we can conclude that Mr. George Bush, Jr. who came to power as a Republican candidate and who is well known for his modest intelligence and knowledge abilities, is coming to complete the implementation of American policy of military control over the oil resources which was initiated by his father in 1990 in the second Gulf War because of which the region still suffers negative economic, political and environmental effects.

Occupation of Iraq as a Strategy:

The second Gulf war realized the most important part of the American plan represented by the total domination of Iraq which was the only Arab state that has openly rejected the Israeli presence in Palestine and opposed the American control of the interests, resources, policies and regimes of the Arab states. In addition to this, Iraq came out of its war with Iran as a strong industrial nation, which was able to acquire technological and nuclear capabilities and has thus stepped into the prohibited zone for the countries in the region.

The historical isolation and siege imposed on Iraq since 1990 played a major role in pushing the Palestinian leader to the negotiation table with Israel and to the acceptance of conditions which would not be accepted by any Arab state. As a result of this, Oslo and Madrid Accords were signed and First Intifada was terminated by the signature of the said Oslo Accord in 1992.

Subsequent to this Oslo Accord certain major developments took place represented by the failure of Israel to comply with the minimum requirements of the Oslo Accord, the humiliating withdrawal of Israel from southern Lebanon, the rise of the second Intifada in Palestinian Territories and the commencement of the suicidal operations, which had a deep effect on the Israeli situation despite the massacres committed by Sharon against the Palestinians. All these events moved the Palestinian issue to a state where comprehensive solution became crucial. From the other side, the failure of the different American administrations to drag individual Arab states to recognition and normalization agreements with Israel was mainly due to the continuous efforts of Iraqi regime to reveal such attempts to the Arab people. These developments led the Israeli and American partners to the adoption of a new strategy of suspending all efforts for the direct solution of the Palestinian problem and focus on the Iraqi issue as it became evident that the road to peace in the Middle East and elimination of all forms of Arab rejection to the Israeli state commences in Baghdad and not in Ramalla or Jerusalem.

As evidence to this prevailing modified strategy the original draft resolution presented by the Bush administration to the congress contained a paragraph which was subsequently omitted and which was designed to give Bush the authority to use military force to impose and maintain peace in the Middle East.

The object of the Great Empire in the world:

It is evident that there are certain forces in the United States, which push the Bush administration to adopt the military option against Iraq, based on the contention that such course of action would establish a strategic presence for the United States in the Middle East. Occupation of Iraq will enable the United States to isolate Iran by its presence in Afghanistan and its expected presence in Iraq. Such presence would also legitimize the American policy of deterrence against terrorist groups whom the Americans are trying to establish that they have their source in the Middle East and Arab Countries. It will also enable the U.S. to solve the Middle East problem through the recognition of the Hebrew state. Upon achievement of such strategy the United States is expected to dominate the world through its new imperial region.

Occupation of Oil Resources in Iraq:

Iraq is the second oil producer in the world, coming next to Saudi Arabia. The United States of America is deemed to be the biggest consumer of oil in the world, consuming 25% of the total oil production of the world. In addition to this, the United States of America is currently being run by two shrewd businessmen (the President and his Vice President) who happened to share a special interest in oil. This constitutes historical accord between American strategy and personal interest of the present administration.

The vision of the Bush family, as owners of oil companies operating in the Gulf region and in other parts of the world, are overlapping with the American policy that the most dangerous mass destruction weapon possessed by the Iraqi President is the threat to control the flow of oil from the Arabian Gulf. The overlap of interests and policies constitutes a historical accord between American strategy and personal interest of the present administration. Accordingly, the present phases of American history represent the most opportune and historical moment for realizing the American dream of establishing control on the oil sources. This chance may not be repeated for decades to come and this mere fact is what is pushing the current administration to convert theoretical strategies into facts of real life.

In addition, the present administration has also revealed its future plans to re-shape the Middle East region upon the collapse of the present Arab political system subsequent to the resolution of the Iraqi issue. This lead certain Arab governments to reject the war and the fall of Iraqi resources under the American control, which represents a huge set back to the Arabs. This has also led European countries like

France and Germany to oppose the war which if conducted in the way envisaged by the Americans would result in the establishment of the greater part of the American Empire which will control global economy including the economies of eastern and western European countries which currently represent a challenge to the American power. All this would lead us to the logical question: what is to be done?

Deterrence

Subsequent to the termination of the cold war and the emergence of the United States as the supreme power of the world, American policies were revealed to the world and the American strategy to control the oil resources gradually transformed into a public and global crisis. This is evident from the objections raised by France and Germany, the largest two states in Europe in addition to the refusal by China and Russia against the war threatened by the United States against Iraq. This, clearly, demonstrates realization by the different parties of the dangers posed by the American policies to their future economic interests, despite the short term post-war benefits, and shares which they may gain from their alliance with the United States.

Based on the foregoing it is logical to envisage a form of cooperation between certain international powers to constitute a determined power which would be able to stand in the way of the American dreams which are beginning to be realized for more than a decade through war, armed conflicts and destruction which is gradually taking the form of actual international terrorism (not the fake ghost of terrorism currently being created and used by the United States) leading to economic instability and the broadening of the poverty gap. These international forces will be able to form a deterrent force provided efforts are timely exerted without any delay with the requisite will to perform this role.

Firstly: The Veto states against the American policies such as Russia, China and France, lead by France as the most powerful party with the support of the European Union countries and with lessons learnt from World War I and World War II may refrain from the short sighted policy of distribution of post-war gains and benefit to the detriment of weaker nations

Secondly: Major industrial countries, such as Germany, Japan, East Asian countries and India which are claiming new right in the United Nations entities such as the Veto right. These countries will have a big role to play if they agree on the importance of the challenge which will definitely be to its benefit in the long run.

Thirdly: Arab countries, which have a direct interest in these American strategies

and are bount to reject the pressure exerted on them by the American because such intervention constitute violation of their sovereignty and for which a very high price will be paid upon at the end of the war. New political and economic regimes will be imposed on these countries which they will not be able to object or refuse to implement. To give effect to this Arab role the present political regimes are required to open up through a democratic reform process which is a basic claim required by their peoples. Realization of Democracy will motivate these to support their government against any policies rejected by people. In addition, the Arab countries role will persuade the other two groups mentioned in the preceding paragraphs to stand against and resist the American challenge which is rejected by people and governments.



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