



Interaction

ISSUE-04

VOLUME-17

MC-1326

Rs.400/-

195

ABC CERTIFIED

NOVEMBER 2023

Enlarged Payload fairing with MIRVs inside —
Warhead bus (space vehicle) with enlarged diameter to accommodate MIRVs —
Computing and guidance unit —
2nd stage —
2nd stage engine —
Interstage —
1st stage —
1st stage booster —



CLASS MRBM
DIAMETER 1.7 M
PAYLOAD MIRV
RANGE 2,200 KM
PROPULSION Solid-Fuel

ABABEEL MISSILE

ACCOMMODATING MULTIPLE INDEPENDENT REENTRY VEHICLES



Interaction

November 2023

CHIEF EDITOR:
Nusrat Mirza

EXECUTIVE EDITOR:
Bismah Mirza

EDITOR:
Mirza Kashif Baig

MANAGING EDITOR:
Yusuf Rahi

PRODUCTION MANAGER
M. H. Khan

LAYOUT DESIGN:
Muhammad Zia Malik

CONTRIBUTORS:

Gen. (R) Mirza Aslam Baig
Nisar Ul Haq Usmani

BUREAU CHIEF & DIRECTOR MARKETING:

Islamabad:
Prof. Dr. M. Attaullah Khan

REPRESENTATIVES:

UK (London)
Tahir Shah
Bangladesh
Abdul Rahim Khan

Printed by:

NUSRAT MIRZA

From Al-Asif Printers, Karachi

Published from:

71/C, 1st Floor, 24th Commercial Street,
Tauheed Commercial Area, Phase-V, DHA.,
Karachi, Pakistan.

Mailing Address:

Plot No.71/C, 1st Floor, 24th Commercial Street,
Tauheed Commercial Area, Phase-V, DHA.,
Karachi, Pakistan.

Tel : +92 21 358 619 35 -36

Email : monthlyinteractionpk@gmail.com

www.monthlyinteraction.com

One Copy Rs. 400/-
One Year Rs. 4500/-

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GAZA GENOCIDE: ISRAELI TERRORISM AND WESTERN HYPOCRISY



To understand the Gaza problem, one must first understand its historical and political context. Gaza was controlled by the Egyptian military after the 1948 Arab-Israel conflict, but it remained primarily populated by Palestinian Arabs. Israel occupied Gaza during the 1967 Six-Day War. In 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew its settlers and military forces from Gaza, but retained control of the territory's airspace, territorial waters, and border crossings (with the

exception of the Rafah crossing, which is controlled by Egypt). After the Palestinian militant group Hamas took control of Gaza in 2007, Israel and Egypt imposed a blockade for security reasons. This blockade has significantly hampered the movement of goods and people, exacerbating the humanitarian catastrophe.

According to health officials, thousands of Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since Israel commenced a bombing campaign on the embattled territory in response to a Hamas surprise strike inside Israel on 7th October 2023. Minors account for almost 40% of the fatalities. More than a million people have been displaced, and hundreds of houses have been destroyed in the besieged zone, which has been deprived of water, food, and other basic supplies. Because of Israel's days-long shelling of Gaza, which has caused substantial damage to schools and hospitals and displaced almost one million people, aid agencies have warned of a "catastrophic" scarcity of medical supplies in the beleaguered territory.

Israel had ordered the relocation of 1.1 million Palestinians from the north to the south, producing terror and distress for tens of thousands in an area where economic stagnation had endured for 16 years due to Israeli blockades. Palestinians have refused to comply with this demand because they do not want to leave their nation. In response, Israel stated that all remaining individuals are terrorists and will be dealt as such. The rest of the world either directly supports these oppressive Zionist policies by backing Israel or



■ EDITORIAL

indirectly by standing silent.

According to Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), located in the United Kingdom, hospitals in Gaza are facing a "catastrophic" scarcity of medical supplies as a result of Israel's "total blockade." Surgical supplies, drugs, and blood are becoming increasingly scarce in hospitals. The health-care system is on the point of collapsing, threatening thousands of people, including many renal and cancer patients who are already on the verge of death. According to the UN Population Fund, around 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza are unable to get health care due to the attacks on multiple hospitals. If the electricity goes out in a hospital, infants in incubators are in grave risk.



Because there aren't enough body bags, people are storing dead bodies in ice cream trucks. According to the WHO, airstrikes have directly damaged 24 health facilities, including six hospitals, killing numerous health care workers and ambulances. After years of Israeli rule, Gaza's health-care system had already begun to erode. According to the World Bank, Gaza has one hospital bed for every 1,000 people, while Israel had three. Concerns about the spread of epidemics are mounting, according to UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Work Agency) due to the surge of refugees into hospitals, where children are already contracting smallpox.

Since the start of the Israeli attacks on October 7, almost 500,000 Palestinians have been unable to get food rations due to the closure of food distribution locations. Airstrikes have also directly impacted livestock, particularly poultry, as well as agricultural land. The shutdown of Israel's Karem Abu Salem gate - the only commercial crossing, also known as Kerem Shalom - has blocked the transit of cattle fodder. Farmers cannot access their property, but power shortages prevent them from rescuing their harvests through irrigation, mechanization, incubation devices, or refrigeration. Agriculture losses are most severe in southern regions, such as Khan Younis. According to Euro-Med Monitor, vital food supplies including as eggs, bread, and vegetables are in low supply due to the ongoing displacement and blockade. Gaza residents have reported a food crisis, with youngsters receiving precedence. Food insecurity in Gaza was already severe during Israel's occupation. According to the World Food Program, 63 percent of the 1.84 million-person population was food insecure.



Potable water has grown even more scarce in Gaza. Families spent hours hunting for water while carrying water

flasks, according to Kahout. When individuals do find water, it is mostly from private merchants who run modest solar-powered desalination and water purifying plants. Others are compelled to drink brackish water from farm wells. This raises concerns about aquatic infections such as cholera. According to a June report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 96 percent of water is unfit for human consumption, forcing the majority of families to purchase water from street vendors at a high price - an added burden for a population where, according to the World Bank, every other resident is impoverished.

Water and sanitation facilities, water wells, reservoirs, and pumping stations in Gaza have all been devastated as a result of the ongoing air attacks, resulting in a serious water shortage. Water contamination in the Gaza Strip, which already has a 13-14 percent increase in the number of kidney patients each year, could exacerbate kidney diseases significantly. The final operable wastewater treatment plant in Gaza shut down on Sunday, resulting in the flow of extra untreated effluent into the Mediterranean. Because the majority of the 65 sewage pumping stations have ceased operations owing to a lack of fuel, sewage and solid waste have piled in the streets, posing health and environmental risks.

Residents of Gaza, who live in one of the world's most densely populated areas, have been pushed even farther into a corner. More than 600,000 Palestinians have been forced to the southern half of Gaza as a result of Israeli air raids and evacuation orders, with more than half of them crowded into UNRWA emergency shelters. This figure is growing at an alarming rate. Despite the lack of order and sanitation, a large number of individuals are seeking refuge here and in schools. This raises the prospect of epidemics in Gaza and elsewhere.

As of October 24th, at least 181,000 dwelling units had been destroyed, with many more rendered inhabitable. Those who have been displaced from their houses live in public housing or with host families. People in the south entertained at least two to three other families, including strangers. The housing crisis in Gaza does not stop there. A vast number of displaced people, including pregnant women, injured people, and children, are sleeping on the streets.

Israel has subjected the Palestinian people to the most heinous form of terrorism. Instead of limiting the fighting to Hamas fighters, Zionists are attacking unarmed civilians. The world is watching genocide in Palestine. Israeli authorities have openly referred to Palestinians as animals who, according to Zionists, must be wiped from the face of the earth.

The world's silence, particularly that of the Arab world, is now criminal. Their vacuous condemnations of Israel's conduct are meaningless to the Palestinians. It is past time to take serious action against Israel's actions, which have completely abandoned humanity. Global hypocrisy about Israel, particularly that of the West, is putting humanity to shame, as it appears that their claims of humanity and freedom are nothing more than a deception.



LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEFS



RUSSIA SAYS ISRAELI BOMBARDMENT OF GAZA IS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL LAW

Israel's bombardment of Gaza runs counter to international law and risks creating a catastrophe that could last decades, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said. Lavrov made the comments, some of Moscow's most critical of Israel yet, in an interview with the Belarusian state news agency Belta, which released them on Saturday. "While we condemn terrorism, we categorically disagree that you can respond to terrorism by violating the norms of international humanitarian law, including indiscriminately using force against targets where civilians are known to be present, including hostages that have been taken," he said.

It was impossible, he added, to destroy Hamas as Israel has pledged to do without destroying Gaza along with most of its civilian population. "If Gaza is destroyed and two million inhabitants are expelled, as some politicians in Israel and abroad propose, this

will create a catastrophe for many decades, if not centuries," warned Lavrov. "It is necessary to stop, and to announce humanitarian programs to save the population under blockade."

Courtesy: Al-Jazeera.

'INDUS SHIELD-2023': PAKISTAN AIR FORCE'S 14-NATION EXERCISE COMMENCES

Pakistan Air Force (PAF), on Monday (16/10/2023), kick-started multinational air drills, Indus Shields 2023 at an operation air base in the country. Air Officer Commanding, Central Air Command, Air Vice Marshal Tariq Mehmood Ghazi attended the opening ceremony as Chief Guest. Addressing the participants, he said the exercise would prove to be a step forward in promoting brotherly relations amongst the leading air powers of the region. Air forces of 14 nations Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Egypt, Oman, Bahrain, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Morocco, Uzbekistan, China, and Hungary are participating in the air exercise in Pakistan.

Courtesy: Pakistan Observer.



MILITARY CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT TEST OF ABABEEL MISSILE

Pakistan on Wednesday (October 18, 2023) conducted a successful flight test of the Ababeel weapon system, according to a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The latest test of the ballistic missile system was aimed at "re-validating various design, technical parameters, and performance evaluation." "The missile system is aimed at strengthening deterrence and enhancing strategic stability in the region through the operationalization of full spectrum deterrence in the overall construct of credible minimum deterrence," said ISPR.



Courtesy: The Express Tribune.

CANADA CUTS SOME CONSULAR SERVICES IN INDIA AMID ROW OVER SIKH LEADER'S MURDER

Canada on Friday said it was temporarily suspending in-person operations at consulates in several Indian cities and warned of visa processing delays amid a diplomatic dispute over the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. The announcements affecting consulates in Bengaluru, Chandigarh, and Mumbai came hours after Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said Canada had withdrawn 41 diplomats from India.

Courtesy: Dawn.



PAKISTAN LAUNCHES GHAURI BALLISTIC MISSILE IN A TEST OF READINESS

Pakistan on Tuesday (24/10/2023) successfully conducted a training launch of Ghauri Weapon System aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command. According to an ISPR statement released in Rawalpindi, the launch was witnessed by the Commander of Army Strategic Force Command (ASFC), senior officers from the strategic forces, scientists, and engineers of the strategic organization.

Courtesy: Hum News

COAS MUNIR MEETS PALESTINIAN ENVOY, EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER ISRAEL'S 'UNABATED VIOLENCE' IN GAZA

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir on Tuesday (24/10/2023) expressed grave concern over the "indiscriminate killing" of Palestinians in Gaza and called on the international community to put an end to the "unlawful use of force" by the Israeli military.

The COAS expressed grave concern over unabated violence and willful, indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians by the Israeli Defense Forces in the war. Incessant attacks on the civilian population, schools, universities, aid workers, hospitals, and the forced exodus of Palestinians from Gaza are manifest crimes against humanity," it stated.

Courtesy: Dawn.

USA WILL NEVER QUIT THE WAR - AN INSANE AND INHUMAN APPROACH



NUSRAT MIRZA



The Biden Administration is deeply concerned about the Ukraine war, although the recent Hamas attack on Israel has momentarily diverted attention. The danger of being overwhelmed by the dire consequences of defeat in the Ukraine war looms large. Such a defeat could lead to discrediting the trans-Atlantic alliance, impacting the Indo-Pacific region, causing the disintegration of NATO, and spelling doom for U.S. global hegemony. Consequently, the U.S. is once again looking to support Ukraine with renewed efforts.

In pursuit of its Ukraine agenda, President Biden addressed the nation from the Oval Office on October 19, 2023. This address can only be seen as the launch of a new phase in the Ukraine war, aimed at further pressuring Putin. Biden weaves together a new narrative, claiming that both Hamas and Russian leaders want to "completely annihilate a neighboring democracy."

This assertion is, however, flawed, as the U.S. has a history of propagating misinformation with great fanfare. Biden

seems to overlook the injustices committed by Israel and its unwavering support, which has the inhumane objective of keeping Arab nations under control and putting pressure on Russia through the Ukraine conflict. This aligns with the U.S.'s global hegemonic agenda. Biden appears to be in a mindset reminiscent of the New Conservatives (New CONS), masking their actions under the guise of democracy. This approach is increasingly unacceptable to the world. However, the U.S. remains committed to supporting its allies, which it deems essential for preserving American primacy on the global stage.

This perpetuates what some have referred to as "America's forever war." The U.S. is utilizing conflicts in Ukraine and Israel to advance its ultimate agenda of global hegemony. Today it is Ukraine and Israel; tomorrow it could be India or any other nation.

The U.S. is unlikely to ever abandon its pursuit of power, as indicated by Col. Peter Ralph in his book "NEVER QUIT THE WAR" and



Brzezinski in "The Grand Chess Board," where it's asserted that America will maintain global primacy, even if it means engaging in war, regime change, or civil conflict in countries that challenge the United States.

Analysts in Europe are noting a growing disillusionment with the war, with the exception of Poland, which was once part of the USSR and played a role in balancing NATO. Additionally, Britain is showing support for the U.S. agenda, always aligning with the U.S. and anticipating its own ascent to superpower status when the U.S. inevitably declines.

On October 20, 2023, the United States of America successfully issued a joint statement with the European Union (EU), stating that the EU is in agreement with the U.S. on providing unwavering military support to Ukraine. The statement demands that Russia should "end its brutal war and withdraw its military forces, proxies, and equipment immediately, completely, and unconditionally from the entire internationally recognized territory of Ukraine."

It emphasizes the imperative of restoring "internationally recognized borders" in any peace settlement and compelling Russia to "bear the legal consequences of all its internationally wrongful acts" against Ukraine. The joint work also includes efforts to undermine Russia's ability to wage war and to



expand its defense industrial base and capacity. Despite this joint statement, it appears that many European countries are not demonstrating a serious commitment to supporting Ukraine militarily. Some analysts point to Sweden and several Baltic states as examples where no significant actions or movements have been observed.

In contrast, a U.S. newspaper, Politico, reported on October 18 that Sweden's Defense Minister, Pål Jonson, instructed the country's military chief to provide Ukraine with Gripen fighter jets. Additionally, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, and the Netherlands may offer F-16 jets to Kiev. Experts believe that even a limited number of Gripen jets could significantly aid Ukraine's efforts to control its airspace.

These jets are easy to maintain and can operate from shorter, narrower runways, including highway strips, which reduce the risk of being targeted at larger bases and destroyed by Russian attacks.

As the conflicts persist in Ukraine and Gaza, it becomes evident that they will continue until the US re-establishes its challenged hegemony over the global landscape. Those who oppose the US are branded as animals, reminiscent of how Japan was portrayed during World War II, and how Israel has labeled Hamas as such.

The author is the Chief Editor of Monthly Interaction.



CHINA'S GREAT LEAP FORWARD AND BRI



DR. MOONIS AHMAR



A decade after the launching of the Silk Road project which was renamed as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Chinese President Xi Jinping arranged a BRI forum from October 17-18 which was attended by more than 130 countries, several international organizations along with 10,000 delegates. It was the third BRI forum and examined in detail how China can play a leadership role in promoting its global influence by focusing on investments, trade, aid, technology, and cultural diplomacy.

China, which was impoverished and an economically fragile country seven decades ago is now the world's second-largest economy with a GDP of \$ 18 trillion, foreign exchange reserves of \$ 3.2 trillion, per capita income of \$ 13,000, and an economic growth rate of 5%. Since the Cultural Revolution of 1966, China has pulled more than 500 million people from the poverty line and has a vibrant economy.

Sharing its economic success, particularly with the developing countries China initiated

BRI, called as mother of all projects focusing on connectivity, infrastructure development, and modernization by investing several hundred billion dollars including in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project. Celebrating 10 years of BRI attended by more than 130 countries from all the continents of the world, the Chinese leadership under President Xi Jinping urged upon the participants of the BRI forum to critically examine the performance of the initiative in providing a good quality of life to people particularly in the under-developed world.

As reported in a section of the press, "the ongoing 3rd Belt and Road Forum (BRF), inaugurated by Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, stands as one of the pivotal multilateral diplomatic affairs on China's calendar for the year, drawing attention on the global stage. Under the banner of "High-quality Belt and Road Cooperation:

Together for Common Development and Prosperity," the BRF has attracted delegates from over 130 nations and 30 international organizations. The forum was participated by three European leader's viz. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.

From the African region Nigerian Vice President Kashim Shettima, Kenyan President William Ruto, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, and Republic of Congo President

Denis Sassou Nguesso joined the celebration. Moreover, 13 leaders/heads of states including Pakistan, Chile, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam also joined the forum.

In the worsening situation posing numerous challenges to the fragile world order, BRI is termed as a positive initiative on the part of China to empower those countries with technology, and better infrastructure, trickling down to human development. Predictably, the United States and the West, including India and Japan view BRI as a project trying to deepen dependency and augment the debt trap among countries



recipients of Chinese investments.

Examples of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Angola, and Kyrgyzstan are given where billions of dollars of Chinese investment tend to intensify the level of debt trap providing Beijing enormous clout over such countries and mitigating their sovereignty. The third BRI forum held from October 17-18 was meant to examine the challenges encompassing the initiative. That forum also witnessed the visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin and other world leaders who along with their Chinese counterparts were engaged in strengthening connectivity from Latin America to Africa, and Europe to Asia.

In its essence, "Over the past decade,

China has embarked on an audacious quest, joining hands with more than 150 nations and 30 international organizations in a grand partnership to co-create the BRI. This monumental endeavor has manifested in the realization of over 3,000 collaborative projects under the BRI umbrella, representing a substantial investment of nearly \$1 trillion".

If the BRI forum witnessed an impressive gathering of countries directly and indirectly involved in the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, it also reflected the presence of an official delegation of the Taliban government which signified the formal inclusion of Afghanistan in BRI.

Earlier, the Chinese government while disregarding the non-recognition of the Taliban regime by the UN appointed its ambassador to Kabul. According to Reuters news agency dated October 19, 2023, "The Taliban administration wants to formally join Chinese President Xi Jinping's huge 'Belt and Road' infrastructure initiative and will send a technical team to China for talks, Afghanistan's acting commerce minister said in a statement."

Acting Commerce Minister Haji Nooruddin Azizi told Reuters in an interview a day after the Belt and Road Forum ended in Beijing that "We requested China to allow us to be a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Belt and Road Initiative... (and) are discussing technical issues today." The Acting Afghan Commerce Minister further said, "The administration would also send a technical team to China to enable it to "better understand" the issues standing in the way of it joining the initiative, but did not elaborate on what was holding Afghanistan back. Afghanistan could offer China a wealth of coveted mineral resources.

Several Chinese companies already operate there, including the Metallurgical

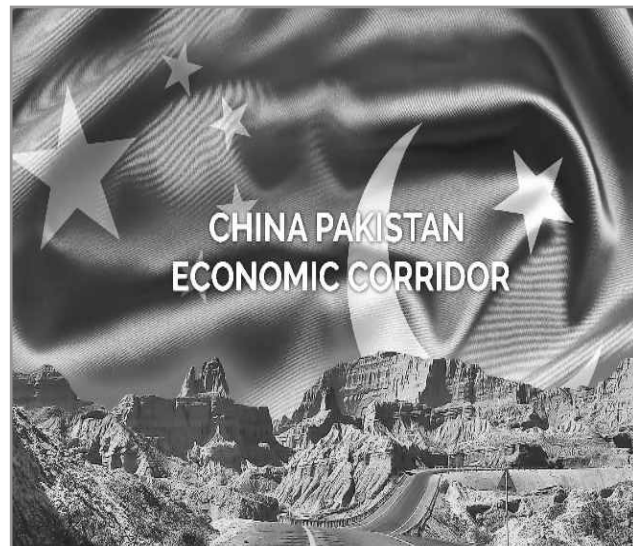
Corp. of China Ltd (MCC) which has held talks with the Taliban administration, as well as the previous Western-backed government, over plans for a potentially huge copper mine. "China, which invests all over the world, should also invest in Afghanistan... we have everything they need, such as lithium, copper and iron," Azizi said. "Afghanistan is now, more than ever, ready for investment."

Afghanistan's inclusion in BRI and CPEC got an impetus when on May 28, 2023, Pakistan's foreign ministry in a statement stated that "The two sides agreed to continue their humanitarian and economic assistance for the Afghan people and enhance development cooperation in Afghanistan, including through extension of CPEC to Afghanistan." Furthermore, according to the Silk Road briefing, "The Taliban have also expressed hopes for China to boost investments in the country's rich resources, estimated to be worth US\$1 trillion.

The Taliban signed its first China contract in January this year with Xinjiang Central Asia Petroleum and Gas Company (CAPEIC), a subsidiary of China National Petroleum (CNPC). Worth US\$541 million, the agreement is a 25-year contract to extract oil from more than 1,700 square miles of the Amu Darya basin in Afghanistan and provides the Taliban with a 20% stake for no investment, involvement or risk".

Shanthie Mariet D'Souza while writing in *The Diplomat* issue of October 19, 2023: "On October 17 and 18, leaders, delegations and representatives from more than 130 countries gathered in Beijing for the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, also marking the 10th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's ambitious global infrastructure and energy initiative.

Among the invited was a Taliban delegation from Afghanistan led by acting



Minister for Commerce and Industry Haji Nooruddin Azizi". "Azizi also held discussions in Beijing on plans to build a road through the Wakhan corridor, in northern Afghanistan, to provide direct access to China.

However, what is of prime importance to both countries is the possible extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into Afghanistan. While all these projects look potentially promising, with the current state of affairs in the country, none are expected to come to fruition any time soon." China expects to make full use of Afghanistan's \$ 1 trillion untapped mineral resources and Beijing doesn't care about criticism on the Taliban regime of its exclusive mode of governance namely the absence of political pluralism and denying women's right to education and employment. One needs to analyze the BRI Forum and Afghanistan's accommodation in the Belt and Road Initiative along with CPEC from two angles. First, the focus of Chinese leadership is to sustain BRI in order to make sure that an alternate world order based on multi-polarity is ensured disregarding Western/Indian criticism on Beijing's support to the Taliban regime in joining the initiative.

Continued on page 15

PAKISTAN'S ECONOMY THE WAY FORWARD



**DR. SHAHIDA
WIZARAT**



The way forward formulated out of the present crisis for Pakistan is one that facilitates the local elite and foreign partners to benefit, while the entire cost is borne by the middle and lower middle classes in Pakistan. This can be observed from the god-fatherly role adopted by the World Bank (WB) to protect the interests of IPPs, the bogus arbitration pointed out by Jeffrey Sachs given by ICSID in the Riko Dig case resulting in the imposition of a \$5.9 billion fine on Pakistan.

And the recent WB proposal to increase the tax rate to 35% on all those earning Rs 5 lakh p.m. The economic turmoil resulting from IMF conditionalities has been causing a massive decline in growth rates, rendering one crore fifty lakh people unemployed, a phenomenal increase in the inflation rate including food inflation which is making Pakistan food insecure, increasing our foreign debts by \$100 billion in the last 4 years alone due to IMF conditionalities.

This along with the proposals on corporate farming, export of minerals in raw form, and

privatization of strategic assets are efforts to facilitate and increase elite capture for Pakistanis in the corridors of power and foreign collaborators. This elite capture is reflected by the royal living style of the government, the increase in top-heaviness in organizations, with a sharp increase in their salaries and perks.

As a result, there is a massive increase in the income differential between the top management and the lower cadres. The major focus of the reform agenda should be to provide solutions that result in maximum benefits to the people of Pakistan, instead of accentuating the elite capture by the local and foreign elite.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

The lavish life styles of the Government have to be brought down drastically. The royal life styles, the protocols, lavish and frequent travels abroad have to be slashed drastically. Public sector institutions' top heaviness needs massive cutting to size, and the perks and privileges of those drawing salaries and perks between Rs 20 million and 4 million per month in public sector institutions, banks, and financial companies need to be slashed drastically.

BALANCE OF PAYMENT

Pakistan has closed its eyes to its own vital economic and strategic interests. We don't have foreign exchange reserves to pay for our most vital and strategic goods. These can be made available from countries against



payment in local currencies and barter. Let me re-emphasize that we do not have the foreign exchange reserves to pay for these, and we cannot turn to the IMF for further borrowing as our foreign debts have become unsustainable.

Unsustainability of debts means that if we engage in fresh borrowings we will not be able to service our debts. There is, therefore, no other option but to trade in local currencies. And it is our sheer good luck that the Peoples Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and other regional countries are amenable to trading in local currencies and barter.

The external sector strategy proposed by me in my book 'Alternative to the IMF and Other Out of the Box Solutions' is a better alternative to the IMF strategy on account of the following: First, an increase in exports is expected to be brought about through quality enhancement and exploring new commodities and markets. Second, the cost of adjustment which is quite marginal is passed on to the wealthy classes, who bear a nominal burden in the short run only.

Third, the proposed strategy tries to break the trade-off between economic adjustment and economic growth by trying to bring about an 'expansionary adjustment' rather than a 'recessionary adjustment'. Fourth, while the IMF model tries to increase foreign exchange reserves by increasing exports only, the alternative strategy proposed by me focuses

on expanding exports, reducing imports, charging market rates for the use of our infrastructure, natural resources and financial assets to increase the inflow of foreign exchange.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Our mineral extraction methods are very dated resulting in huge losses. We should import technology that will help in the safe extraction of minerals and stones. This requires exploring state-of-the-art technology from companies in the Russian Federation, China, Turkey, and other friendly countries.

We are exporting our gold, copper, precious stones, rock salt, rare earth, apricot kernels, indigo plants, etc., in raw form at nominal rates. Countries that do not have these resources, import them from Pakistan and establish industries converting our natural resources into finished products, creating wealth for themselves.

While we are selling them for peanuts and suffer from the resource curse. We should invite open bids through international tenders for prospecting, exploration, and mining of precious metals. It also requires formulation of an industry cum area-specific industrial policy, which gives incentives to only those industries whose natural resources are found in abundance in those areas. For Baluchistan, KPK, and Azad Kashmir this means that we



develop fuel, mineral, fruit, and vegetable processing industries. This way we can change the resource curse that afflicts exporters of minerals and fuels in raw form into a blessing.

PRIVATIZATION

In order to pass on the benefits from privatization to Pakistan and the local population the following recommendations are being made. First, the privatization policy of the GOP will have to distinguish between strategic and non-strategic sectors. For the non-strategic sectors, GOP may resort to full privatization or partial privatization. Second, strategic sectors should not be privatized. All the loss-making strategic sectors should be restructured rather than privatized.

The GOP should start with the restructuring of loss-making strategic units. Third, the GOP should use its power to benefit the poorer segments of the Pakistani population, rather than teaming up with big foreign companies, which will create misgivings in the minds of the public about government motives.

AGRICULTURE

A cheaper and healthier alternative to the problem of food insecurity is organic farming which does not entail the import of seeds, fertilizers, and insecticides. Since it does not require these high-tech inputs, organic farming does not require foreign exchange. It



also does not require large amounts of water which is already scarce in Pakistan. Organic farming would, therefore, not only be cheaper but a healthier alternative as well.

If the government is serious about making Pakistan food secure it should give 7 to 10 acres of hitherto uncultivated land to landless peasants in areas where water is not a serious problem. Improved irrigation methods like sprinkle irrigation, building of dams, etc., should be undertaken by the government.

Small loans from the Agricultural Development Bank can take care of seeds, natural manures, and natural insecticides. The produce from these organic farms should first be for the home market in Pakistan. This would be a far more effective and sustainable way to make the country's food secure. And what is left over can be exported.

CONCLUSION

Pakistan's present economic policies put a severe burden related to debt servicing on the middle, lower middle, and poor classes of Pakistan. While the wealthy segments of the population are the major beneficiaries as they don't bear the cost of adjustment. The wealthy classes also gain on account of the devaluation of the Rupee and the rise in the value of the \$, and the steep rise in the interest rate enables them to earn fantastic wealth



without making any effort.

They also stand to gain through non-transparent privatizations, giving away Pakistan's natural resources in raw form for peanuts, fantastic pay, and benefits ranging between Rs. 20 million to 4 million to top management in public and private banks, financial companies, and state enterprises. This elite capture is further compounded by the pay, perks, and privileges enjoyed by federal and provincial cabinet ministers, prime minister, chief ministers, and the president.

While at the lower strata are those whose



wages are in the range of Rs. 30,000 to 10,000 or even less. World Bank and IMF borrowings and the accompanying conditionalities are accentuating the elite capture in Pakistan. True to their predatory instincts and behavior Pakistani leadership has been sharing Pakistan's resources, strategic assets, highways, motorways, airports, and other infrastructure with foreigners, but have not shared these with the people of Pakistan, who are the real owners of these resources and assets.

All the benefits/rents accruing from our assets and resources are shared between those in the corridors of power and their foreign masters who bring them to power. While the people of Pakistan who are the real owners of these resources and assets are struggling for one square meal, which is too expensive, and too contaminated with GMOs to give them proper nutrition and good health.

Dr. Shahida Wizarat serves as the Dean of the College of Economics and Social Development (CESD) at the Institute of Business Management (IOBM) in Karachi.

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CHINA'S GREAT LEAP FORWARD AND BRI

Adhering to the basic characteristics of soft power, China is using BRI to deepen its influence in different parts of the world through investments, sharing of technology, expertise, and experience in seeking the status of the world's second-largest economy.

Second, by seeking China's support in joining BRI and CPEC, the Taliban regime is determined to gain legitimacy despite being excluded from the international diplomatic community. Afghanistan is hopeful that with the support of China and Russia, it will gain international recognition and legitimacy.

It shows that China's approach is positive

and pragmatic in dealing with geo-political realities like the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. By engaging the Taliban, China hopes to help the process of transformation in Kabul so that an inclusive government as agreed in the Doha accord of 2020 is established. All in all, BRI and the inclusion of Afghanistan in that initiative can be termed as fundamental changes in Central, West, and South Asia. Yet, it depends on how the Taliban regime is able to fully implement the Doha accord and prevent Afghanistan from being used as a hub of terrorism.

The writer is a Meritorious Professor of International Relations and former Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Karachi, Karachi

GEOPOLITICS AND CONSCIENCE:

UNDERSTANDING UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

INTERACTION
TEAM



Israel has secured a favored position within the United States foreign policy framework, drawing on various strategic considerations. President Biden, in particular, has exhibited a fervent commitment to ensuring Israel's interests protection, extending wide-ranging military, diplomatic, and financial assistance. This allegiance, however, has led to an apparent disregard for the distressing brutality and cold-blooded war crimes committed by Israel, which have resulted in the tragic loss of thousands of innocent lives in hospitals, schools, and other civilian areas. Despite the apparent violation of humanitarian principles and international law, America's unconditional backing of Israel remains resolute.

A striking instance of this insistent and biased support was witnessed when the United States vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, amid relentless violence. President Biden's visit to Israel coincided with an attack on a hospital that engulfed the lives

of around 800 Palestinians, igniting reflective concerns about America's approach to the Palestinian issue. The ongoing situation suggests the emergence of what appears to be an unyielding pursuit of interests, akin to a modern-day crusade, possibly leading to a planned genocide in Palestine.

Examining Hamas's preparations and attacks reveals a web of global connections, notably with Iran, Russia, and possibly China. Iran's role in supporting Hamas is both evident and strategic, driven by its longstanding opposition to Israel and its consistent efforts to expand its influence throughout the Middle East. This support aligns with Iran's broader regional goals. Meanwhile, Russia has a vested interest in diverting American and Western attention away from both Ukraine and Israel, thereby reducing pressure in the ongoing conflict with Ukraine. Russia's historical alliance with Iran against the United States further strengthens its ties in this context.

China, yet more unnoticeable in its involvement, seems to desire that America be occupied elsewhere, away from the Indo-Pacific region. In this way, American engagement in the Middle East will get increased but, in turn, China will have some relief and potential obstacles to the success of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will be minimized. In all these scenarios, America's unwavering support for Israel remains driven by a mix of strategic concerns and economic interests.

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THE WORLD'S ONLY MUSLIM NUCLEAR POWER WARNS ISRAEL'S WAR IN GAZA MUST STOP

TOM O'CONNOR

Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations has outlined to Newsweek his country's position on the ongoing war between Israel and Palestinian factions led by Hamas, expressing the need for a ceasefire and warning of regional instability if an already devastating conflict deepens further. "This is an obligation that devolves on all member states to prevent an escalation of the conflict," Ambassador Munir Akram told Newsweek. "We would have hoped that the conflict had not taken place, but it has, and now we have to stop it, to halt the fighting and to avoid the suffering that is happening and is likely to happen if this conflict goes on."

While the Islamic Republic he represents, one of the world's most populous countries and the only Muslim-majority nation to possess nuclear weapons, may be thousands of miles away from the frontlines of the Gaza Strip, Akram identified a direct connection between Pakistan and the Palestinian cause. This link was made all the more tangible by parallels he drew between the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Indian-Pakistani dispute over the divided territory of Kashmir, to which Pakistanis commemorate a "Black Day" on Friday.

With local health officials in Hamas-run Gaza now counting deaths in excess of 7,000 as a result of Israeli airstrikes since an unprecedented Hamas-led October 7 assault on Israel in which authorities said 1,400 people were killed, Akram argued that "this is



not something that should be acceptable to any civilized nation or people and we oppose it, therefore we hope it would stop." He added: "There is an additional layer of obligation on us as an Islamic country."

"We feel that we have an obligation, an emotional commitment to Palestine and to the freedom of the Palestinian people," Akram said. "It is a principle to which we are committed politically because of Kashmir. We are heavily invested in that principle, and we would like to see the triumph of that principle of self-determination."... Akram said the "two situations are legally and politically linked; at the core of it is the principle of self-determination. People should have the right to determine for themselves what should be their political destiny."

In the case of Kashmir, Akram said that "it has been explicitly stated" in U.N. Security Council Resolution 47 "that the future of Kashmir will be determined by its people through a free and fair plebiscite" a direct vote,

which would be overseen by the U.N., but never came to be. As for the Israeli-Palestinian question, Akram said, "We have come to that principle somewhat circuitously through the creation of the two separate entities" in the early stages of the issue, though he asserted that the concept of a sovereign Palestinian state alongside Israel has become "an accepted solution that is being advocated."

"Beyond the principle of self-determination, there is also the reality of foreign occupation, which is also identical situations that both the Kashmiris and the Palestinians face," Akram said. "And thirdly, of course, there is always the case where a colonial or foreign occupation power describes the resistance as terrorists, and that is also a common feature in these two situations."

"TERRORISTS" VS. "FREEDOM FIGHTERS"

Unlike some of the more global Islamist networks that have sought to achieve aims through violence, such as Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State militant group (ISIS), Hamas is not universally designated as a terrorist organization by the U.N. While Israel, the United States, the European Union, and several other nations consider Hamas to be a terrorist group, most other countries, including Pakistan, do not.

Akram noted that "in the case of Hamas, it is actually an elected entity in Gaza." He also pointed to Hamas having both political and military wings, likening it to the Taliban, with which Pakistan has long fostered ties despite rifts that have emerged since the Islamic Emirate was established in Afghanistan two years ago amid the withdrawal of U.S. troops....

At a time when Hamas is rallying Muslims across the globe to join the "Al-Aqsa Flood" it launched earlier this month against Israel, the

Zaynebiyoun Brigade is one of many "Axis of Resistance" militias with the potential to enter the fight in one form or another.

DIPLOMACY INTERRUPTED

As for Pakistan itself, it is among the many Muslim nations that have not established diplomatic relations with Israel as a result of the unresolved Palestinian issue. And yet, prior to the current conflict, major shifts had occurred in the geopolitical tides of the region.

In the wake of the U.S.-backed Abraham Accords launched in 2020 that ultimately saw the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco recognize Israel, quiet talks emerged with the aim of establishing diplomatic ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia, a nation with unrivaled influence within the Muslim world due to its hosting of the holiest Islamic cities of Mecca and Medina. The current war, however, appears to have stalled this process indefinitely.

Pakistan, too has made inroads to Israel in past years. Akram, however, argued that these overtures occurred at a time when "Israel was seeking an accommodation, was seeking political resolution. There was a commitment to the two-state formula, and everyone was hopeful that once that came about and the Palestinian state was created, then we would be able to normalize relations with Israel."

"But then things changed," Akram said. "Israel went in a different direction. Its policies have been such that they have been forestalling the creation of a viable Palestinian state through the expansion of settlements, through the evictions of Palestinians in Jerusalem, and, on top of that, the offenses within the Al-Aqsa Mosque and so forth."

"So that's why we feel that, obviously, the present is not a very good time to think about that," he added. "We need to, first of all, stop the fighting, restore some semblance of

normalcy, resume negotiations toward a two-state solution, and then, of course, I think once there is normality, Pakistan will, of course, consider [normalization]. But we believe we need to stand up for the Palestinian rights and see that they are fulfilled."

FOES COALESCE

Also weighing on Pakistan's geopolitical calculations are the growing ties between Israel and India. In decades past, India lauded armed Palestinian resistance against Israel, becoming the first non-Arab nation to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1974. In the three decades since establishing full diplomatic ties with Israel in 1992, however, official and public sentiments have increasingly shifted in the opposite direction, with Indians today having among the most positive views of Israel among any nation in the world.

This relationship, bolstered by strong personal ties between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has developed into closer military and intelligence ties as well. This, in turn, has raised new concerns for Pakistan. "We could not be happy about the kind of relationship that has developed between India and Israel," Akram said, portraying the two nations' common ground as being based on the suppression of the very self-determination principle he said Pakistan supported.

"They are a part of occupation of foreign territories that they don't own, they are suppressing people's struggle brutally, they are both extremist regimes with extremist ideas about how to resolve internal and external problems," Akram said. "So, they share a lot in common as far as the nature of the two regimes is concerned, so we are concerned particularly in terms of Israeli

support in weapons and other ways to enable to India to suppress Kashmir and to aggress against Pakistan."

"THE LARGER FEAR"

Two years after engaging in their most serious cross-border clashes in decades, India and Pakistan forged a new ceasefire along the Line of Control. While significant confrontations have been avoided, instances of cross-border shelling and militant activity continue to raise tensions between the two nuclear-armed rivals. Meanwhile, the threat of a broader regional escalation emanates from the second-order effects of the worsening war in Gaza.

"This is the larger fear," Akram said. "Apart from the suffering of the people in Gaza and the region that is taking place, the larger danger is that it could escalate, at what stage it could also escalate horizontally, geographically." Israel, too is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, though it officially neither confirms nor denies it. Iran, while possessing an advanced nuclear program, is not believed to have developed any nuclear arms and has explicitly rejected any suggestions that it intended to produce any.

Still, it maintains by far the largest and most sophisticated missile arsenal in the region. There have been no indications that any actor was considering the use of such weapons. Yet, beyond the Zaynebiyoun, much larger and more powerful militias aligned to Iran's "Axis of Resistance" in countries such as Iraq, Syria and Yemen, as well as Tehran itself, have issued stark warnings to Israel and its allies, including the United States, whose troops have faced daily rocket attacks in both Iraq and Syria.

U.S. President Joe Biden issued a direct warning of his own to Iranian Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Wednesday, asserting that the U.S. "will respond" to such actions. Late Thursday, the U.S. conducted airstrikes on positions said to be used by Iran's IRGC and affiliated groups in eastern Syria. In a statement, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin asserted that Washington "does not seek conflict and has neither intention nor desire to engage in further hostilities, but these Iranian-backed attacks against U.S. forces are unacceptable and must stop."

Akram said he believed that the risk of the conflict spreading was one that many nations have come to realize, including the U.S.,

though it, along with Israel, have so far rejected growing calls for a ceasefire among the international community. "The solution, we think, is not to warn and hope it will not escalate, the solution is to stop the fighting, and that is why we have focused so largely on the issue of ceasefire," Akram said. "A ceasefire, I think, has to happen immediately and unconditionally, and then we can sort out all the issues afterward."

The author is Senior Writer of Foreign Policy and Deputy Editor of National Security and Foreign Policy at Newsweek. Courtesy: Newsweek.

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GEOPOLITICS AND CONSCIENCE:

If Hamas successfully pushes back Israel, America's ability to influence the outcome will be severely limited. Furthermore, any significant challenge to the petrodollar, which the United States deems essential for its national interests, could jeopardize its standing on the global stage. This would create a vacuum that powers like China and Russia are poised to fill, potentially shifting the global balance of power. India's stance in the present situation remains enigmatic. The cunning 'baniya' is skillfully leveraging its substantial market potential, driven by its massive population on both fronts at the same time.

India is simultaneously nurturing its connections with Russia and Iran while shrewdly bolstering its strategic and economic partnerships with the United States and Israel. However, it's foreseeable that this diplomatic balancing act may not be sustainable in the long run once regional tensions find resolution. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and most Gulf countries express reluctance towards this scenario. They prioritize the swift resolution of the issue and the protection of Palestinian

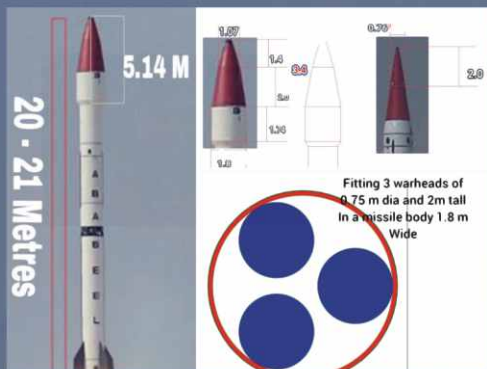
interests. However, their apprehension stems from Iran and Hizbullah's involvement with Hamas and their increasing influence in the Middle East. Though these nations are busy vigorously in diplomatic efforts, they have been less active when it comes to providing direct physical support on the ground.

The ongoing conflict has cast a harsh light on Israel, the United States, and the West. Their fearsome arsenals, advanced missile defense systems, and claims of championing human rights have been exposed, challenging their moral and ethical authority. One significant casualty in this crisis is America's promotion of the 'Deen e Barahim' religion, which was intended to be an inclusive faith accommodating Jews, Christians, and Muslims. This vision, reminiscent of Emperor Akbar's "Deen e Ilahi" or "Deen e Akbari," has met a disgraceful end, much like its historical counterpart.

As the conflict intensifies, it is increasingly apparent that its repercussions are two-fold. On one hand, the escalating situation is proving to be catastrophic for the Palestinian population, resulting in thousands of deaths and colossal suffering. On the other hand, it is poised to considerably impact America's standing in global politics and international relations.

ABABEEL MISSILE

ACCOMMODATING
MULTIPLE
INDEPENDENT
REENTRY
VEHICLES



**“And He sent against them
flocks of birds”**

(Al Quran: 105.4).

Ababeel, which means birds in flocks, is described in 'Surah Al-Feel' by Allah Almighty. This Surah narrates the event of Abraha's attack on 'Baitullah,' where he and his elephants were destroyed by the birds that arrived in flocks, each carrying a stone of baked clay in their beaks and two in their claws. These flocks of birds (Ababeel) struck Abraha's army with those pebbles, rendering them like consumed straws. Considering this historical context, the missile system is named Ababeel, as it is equipped with Multi Independent Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs), a technology that allows a single missile to carry multiple nuclear & conventional warheads, each capable of striking different targets. Team Interaction is delighted to pay tribute to those who chose the name 'Ababeel' for the weapon system.

CLASS

MRBM

DIAMETER

1.7 m

PAYLOAD

MIRV

RANGE

2,200 Km

PROPULSION

Solid-fuel

PAKISTAN'S ABABEEL MISSILE AND MIRV TECHNOLOGY:

INTERACTION
TEAM

REDEFINING NATIONAL SECURITY

The Ababeel Missile, developed by Pakistan, is a medium-range, surface-to-surface, ballistic missile. Its name is derived from the Holy Quran, symbolizing resistance, resilience, and national security. It plays a vital role in Pakistan's defense strategy, reaffirming its commitment to a credible nuclear deterrent in a shifting regional security landscape.

ABABEEL'S DEVELOPMENT

The origins of the Ababeel Missile can be traced back to the mid to late 2000s. Its design shares notable similarities with other solid-fuel Medium-Range Ballistic Missiles (MRBMs) in Pakistan's arsenal, including the Shaheen II and Shaheen III, as well as the Chinese CSS-7 SRBM. What distinguishes the Ababeel missile is its remarkable capacity to accommodate Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicle (MIRV) warheads.

Mansoor Ahmed, an expert on Pakistan's nuclear program, told Defense News after its second flight test that the Ababeel missile represents the "most important engineering milestone for Pakistan's nuclear triad in almost two decades and a major breakthrough in improving the survivability of land-based strategic forces against a preemptive Indian counterforce strike."

MIRV TECHNOLOGY

MIRV technology encompasses a set of nuclear or conventional warheads situated on the front section, commonly called the 'bus,' of a ballistic missile. With MIRVs, each warhead gains the ability to operate autonomously after



the initial propulsion phases of the missile launch have concluded. These warheads can be separated from the bus at different speeds and along distinct trajectories.



FLIGHT TESTS

The Ababeel's first flight test occurred on January 24, 2017. The missile was launched from a site in Winder, on the southern coast of Pakistan. Recently, on October 18, 2023, Pakistan conducted another successful flight test of the Ababeel weapon system. The latest test, according to Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), was aimed at "re-validating various design, technical parameters, and performance evaluation of different sub-systems."

"The missile system is aimed at strengthening deterrence and enhancing strategic stability in the region through the operationalization of full spectrum deterrence in the overall construct of credible minimum deterrence," the military's media wing added.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The Ababeel missile is a three-stage, medium-range ballistic missile that boasts a maximum range of 2,200 kilometers (equivalent to about 1,367 miles). Its physical dimensions comprise a length of 21.5 meters, and the enlarged nose cone section of the missile is estimated to have a diameter of 1.7 meters.

According to ISPR, the Ababeel missile is not only capable of carrying nuclear warheads but also possesses the capability to engage multiple targets with a high degree of

precision, effectively countering the radar systems of potential adversaries.

This missile can accommodate a total warhead weight of 1,500 kilograms (or 3,307 pounds), which can be configured as either three standard warheads, each weighing 500 kilograms, five warheads weighing 300 kilograms each, or a maximum of eight warheads, each with a weight of 185 kilograms.

The Ababeel missile employs solid-fuel technology, which provides several advantages in terms of reliability, responsiveness, ease of transportation, and launch readiness when compared to liquid-fueled missiles.

ROLE IN PAKISTAN'S DEFENSE STRATEGY

While it's true that since 2010, many analysts have examined the potential ramifications of the proliferation of MIRVs in Asia, the ISPR has unequivocally stated that the development of an MIRV-capable missile has the primary goal of guaranteeing the survivability of Pakistan's ballistic missiles in response to the expanding regional Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) environment.

The Ababeel missile system plays a multifaceted role in Pakistan's deterrence strategy, fulfilling a range of crucial objectives:





DETERRENCE

The primary objective of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, including the Ababeel missile, is to deter potential adversaries from initiating aggressive actions. The missile's extended range and advanced capabilities provide Pakistan with a credible deterrent against potential threats.

STRATEGIC BALANCE

In a region, characterized by strategic rivalries, possessing a robust missile system like the Ababeel missile helps Pakistan uphold power equilibrium, foster strategic stability, and mitigate the potential for regional conflicts.

COUNTERFORCE CAPABILITY

The Ababeel missile's MIRV capability enhances Pakistan's ability to enhance its counterforce competencies, allowing for the effective targeting and neutralization of enemy military assets in the event of a conflict.

SECOND-STRIKE CAPABILITY

The survivability and mobility of the Ababeel missile system make it a dynamic component of Pakistan's second-strike capability. In the event of nuclear aggression, the Ababeel missile can be launched from concealed or protected locations, ensuring a

retaliatory response even after a first strike.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The deployment of the Ababeel missile carries substantial regional and international significance. Firstly, it plays a vital role in preserving strategic parity within South Asia, where both Pakistan and India possess nuclear capabilities.

This equilibrium is essential for upholding regional stability. Additionally, the Ababeel missile's presence underscores the critical importance of arms control and non-proliferation initiatives. It accentuates the necessity for confidence-building measures and dialogues among regional powers to mitigate the risk of potential conflicts.

CONCLUSION

In an ever-evolving security landscape, the Ababeel missile serves as a reminder of the intricate dynamics and challenges nations face in pursuit of security and deterrence in an uncertain world. It is imperative for policymakers, analysts, and stakeholders to thoughtfully assess the consequences of advanced missile systems in influencing regional and global security strategies.

As the global security landscape continues to evolve, Pakistan's Ababeel missile remains a crucial component of the nation's defense strategy, embodying its commitment to security and deterrence.



REALITY CHECK - CADETS TO OFFICERS IN PAKISTAN ARMY

AFTER 52 YEARS OF JOINING PAKISTAN MARINE ACADEMY

BRIG. MASOOD ALI KHAN (R)



It has been now over 52 years since we passed out as a band of brothers. We didn't know then what was lying ahead for us. We were too young and innocent to know the vagaries of life and the challenging profession we stepped in. Hardly 18 years old with barely shaveable faces, we were put in the PMA kiln, fired, melted, hammered & molded for 2 years into officers & gentlemen.

As I look now, I don't find those slim, energetic young people. What I see now are baldy, paunchy, ailing, grumpy geezers. Quite a few of us are no more and gone for good. Almost all passed away. Some of natural

causes and some in battle. The ageing won't stop and so are the ailments which would increase day by day. The only thing you could do now is to retain & maintain quality of life, which warrants a review of your lifestyle and to follow healthy habits. Slowly, gradually and surely, our strength shall continue to decrease till none of us would exist.

We got married, some early, some a little late, and had children. We spent a lifetime raising a family and rearing our children. We did our best to provide them with the best possible education from a budgeted income. There were difficult times to keep both ends



met, but we sailed through in most cases. We urged our children to be good human beings and patriotic Pakistanis. We taught them right from wrong. We taught them to learn to walk without crutches in life. We taught them grades don't matter if they are earned unfairly. That's the real investment we did in them.

Balancing between career compulsions and family requirements remained a challenging task. The better half was the person who ensured we did a balancing act. They were the Prima Donnas towards the proper raising of the children, which we seldom understood then.

We didn't realize their importance then, as we do now. We found them to be continuously bickering, cribbing, and complaining, but now we realize whatever squabbling they did, they did for the good of the family. They knew all along about the indiscretions we might have committed in life, but they kept quiet for the sake of the family.

Now the children are grown up, most are married and are gone to their new abodes to lead their own life. We provided them support to learn to walk early in life and gave them wings to fly. Their flight is now solo. They are on their own and would soar higher & higher on their own as they are destined to.

We can only watch & pray they continue to fly majestically and shan't fail. God forbids, by any chance they do, we spread our arms and

catch them to safety before they crash on the ground. What are we now left with? A greying old woman at home, a bunch of old friends/buddies and colleagues, a house we own, and a meager pension or some savings, if we had invested wisely. Now, with the children gone, our wives and friends would provide us company, relief, solace, or whatever and a shoulder to pour out our problems.

Make the best use of them. Isolation kills. We must endeavor to get out of our shells & meet our friends frequently to spend some quality time and remain relevant in life. Meet to eat is not the purpose, but to share our thoughts is. Reach out and do some welfare work, help the needy. That is what the religion tells us.

I earnestly hope we can take care of our own self and our wives without extending a requesting hand to our children. Whatever we save for ourselves, we must spend it wisely. Whatever we own should remain in our name until our demise. Post demise the sharia law shall ensure the distribution of our assets as per Islamic injunctions. Ending on this rather realistic & apparently sad note, I wish my ageing bros the best in life & hereafter.

(Interaction publishes this lovely write up with special thanks to Brig. (R) Masood Ali Khan).



A HISTORICAL JOURNEY BACK A THOUSAND YEARS - JEWS

A SHORT HISTORICAL SEQUENCE RELATING TO THE RELATIONSHIP OF PEOPLES WITH THE JEWS DURING THE PAST THOUSAND YEARS



- 1080 Expulsion from France.
- 1098 Expulsion from the Czech Republic.
- 1113 Expulsion from Kievan Rus (Vladimir Monomakh).
- 1113 Massacre of Jews in Kiev.
- 1147 Expulsion from France.
- 1171 Expulsion from Italy.
- 1188 Expulsion from England.
- 1198 Expulsion from England.
- 1290 Expulsion from England.
- 1298 Expulsion from Switzerland (100 Jews executed by hanging).
- 1306 Expulsion from France (3,000 burned alive).
- 1360 Expulsion from Hungary.
- 1391 Expulsion from Spain (30,000 executed, 5,000 burned alive).
- 1394 Expulsion from France.
- 1407 Expulsion from Poland.
- 1492 Expulsion from Spain (law prohibiting Jews from entering the country forever).
- 1492 Expulsion from Sicily.
- 1495 Expulsion from Lithuania and Kiev.
- 1496 Expulsion from Portugal.

- 1510 Expulsion from England.
- 1516 Expulsion from Portugal.
- 1516 A law in Sicily allowed Jews to live only in ghettos.
- 1541 Expulsion from Austria.
- 1555 Expulsion from Portugal.
- 1555 A law was issued in Rome allowing Jews to live in ghettos only.
- 1567 Expulsion from Italy.
- 1570 Expulsion from Germany (Brandenburg).
- 1580 Expulsion from Novgorod (Ivan the Terrible).
- 1592 Expulsion from France.
- 1616 Expulsion from Switzerland.
- 1629 Expulsion from Spain and Portugal (Philip IV).
- 1634 Expulsion from Switzerland.
- 1655 Expulsion from Switzerland.
- 1660 Expulsion from Kyiv.
- 1701 Complete expulsion from Switzerland (Edict of Philip V).
- 1806 Napoleon's ultimatum. Badarja.
- 1828 Expulsion from Kyiv.
- 1933 Expulsion from Germany and genocide.



This brief historical sequence pertains to the relationship between various nations and the Jews over the past thousand years. It is evident that not all peoples of the world have tolerated the Jews and their actions, with the exception of Islamic peoples who tolerated their presence without expelling them.

The reprisal of the Jews towards the Islamic

peoples included killings, massacres, destruction, and abuse, employing the most abhorrent forms of weaponry.

NOTE: Monthly Interaction publishes this brief history of Jews with special thanks to Brig. (R) Agha Ahmed Gul, founder consultant of BTTN.

BALOCHISTAN THINK TANK NETWORK (BTTN)

BI-ANNUAL RESEARCH JOURNAL



BTTN Journal is a bi-annual double blind peer reviewed research journal that accepts high-quality and original research with value

addition in accordance with the policy research guidelines of Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan.

It is a purely research oriented policy journal published by Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN), at BUITEMS Quetta. BTTN Journal remains wider in scope and applicability to various domains of Social Sciences.

It helps provide wider research perspectives in an interdisciplinary approach that welcomes contributions, not limited to Pakistan affairs, but rather potentially covers the broader contours of International Relations, International Politics, Strategic Studies, Political Science, Arts and Humanities, Political Economy, Economics, Energy & Development, Defense & Security Studies, Geo-strategy, Emerging Technologies, Sociology of Development, Provincial Issues of Balochistan and evolving competing strategies between the major powers and their implications on the smaller states.

BTTN Journal helps provide research opportunities to researchers, scholars, policy makers, and analysts to contribute their research articles for consideration and publication.

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT'S DECISION OF OWNERSHIP OF ALL HOLY MOSQUES IN JERUSALEM



BRIG. AGHA AHMAD GUL (R)



A document that, if it were for the benefit of the Jews, would have been translated into all the languages of the world, and all people would have heard of it. I bet that 99% of Muslims in general, and Arabs in particular, have not heard of it.

What most Arabs and Muslims do not know is that there was an international court decision 93 years ago during the British Mandate of Palestine, when Muslims and Jews litigated over the issue of Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque:

Is it true? For Muslims, or is it the alleged temple of Solomon - peace be upon him - which is a historical right for the Jews?! So, what did the European arbitrators, impartial judges, lawyers, and international historians and archaeologists, when there was not a single Arab or Muslim among them, say about the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the ancient western

wall of the Al-Aqsa Mosque?

Is it the Wailing Wall, and is it a right for the Jews, or is it the Buraq Wall, which is a right and property for Muslims?! What was the decision of that international committee?!

During the British mandate over Palestine... (The Buraq Revolt broke out in 1929 against the British colonialists) in protest against the facilities provided by the British to the Jews to arrive and pray at the western wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The revolution never subsided, until the British agreed to refer the dispute to an international court to decide on the issue: is the wall the Islamic Buraq Wall, or is it the Jewish Wailing Wall?

On September 13, 1929, the British Colonial Secretary appointed a committee known as the Shaw Commission to investigate the immediate causes of the uprising and develop measures to prevent its recurrence. Among its recommendations was to



determine rights and claims to avoid the occurrence of other uprisings.

The British government proposed that the Council of the League of Nations Form a committee for this purpose, as the League Council approved on May 15, 1930 AD its formation, headed by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Government of Sweden as Chairman, and the membership of the Vice-President of the Court of Justice in Geneva, the President of the Mixed Austro-Romanian Court of Arbitration, the former Governor of the eastern coast of the island of Sumatra, and a member of the Parliament of the Netherlands.

An impartial international committee at the highest judicial and arbitration level. The committee arrived in Jerusalem on June 19, 1930, where it stayed (for a full month) in Palestine, and every day it held one or two sessions. During the 23 sessions held by the committee, it heard the testimony of 52 witnesses. , including 21 Jewish rabbis, 30 Muslim scholars, and one British witness.

The two parties submitted to the committee 61 documents, including thirty-five documents submitted by Jews, and twenty-six documents submitted by Muslims. Delegations from all over the Islamic world flocked to Jerusalem to defend the cause and declare Muslims' adherence to ownership of the wall. Ahmed Zaki, Muhammad Ali Allouba, and Muhammad al-Ghunaimi al-Taftazani



traveled from Egypt, Muzahim al-Bajhiji from Iraq, Salah al-Din Bayhum from Lebanon, Mirza Mahdi from Iran, and Sayyid Abdul Ghafour from Afghanistan.

And from Indonesia, Abu Bakr Al-Ash'ari and Abdul-Qahar Mudhakir, from India Abdullah Baha'i and Sheikh Abdul-Ali, and from Poland with its Mufti Dr. Ya'qub Šenkowitz... in addition to a number of prominent Palestinian figures: Awni Abdul-Hadi, Amin Al-Tamimi, Amin Abdul-Hadi, Jamal Al-Husseini, Muhammad Izzat Darwaza, Raghib Al-Dajjani and Sheikh Hassan Abu Al-Saud, in addition to other personalities participated from Marrakesh, Algeria, Tripoli, Morocco, Syria, and eastern Jordan.

It was proven to the International Court that (the Muslims' argument was dominant), as their defense was able to prove that the entire area surrounding the wall is an Islamic endowment according to the documents and records of the Sharia Court and that the texts of the Qur'an and the traditions of Islam clearly state the sanctity of the place to them.

And that the Jews' visit to the Wall was not their right, but rather it was a specific grant under (the orders of the Ottoman Empire) and under (the orders of the Egyptian rule of the Levant), and it was only a response to



repeated requests to visit the place (and without allowing them to perform prayer rituals in this place), and it is sufficient to pray without No sound, no disturbance, no seating facilities or curtains... This was a grant from Muslim governments as a form of religious tolerance (and not a historical, religious, or real estate right)!

The court's decision came more than five months after the start of the International Committee's sessions in Jerusalem, and after it listened to Arab Muslim and Jewish representatives, reviewed all the documents submitted by the two parties, and visited all the holy places in Palestine, and the committee



held its final session in Paris on the 28th. November to December 1, 1930 AD, when the committee unanimously reached its decision, which it began with the following paragraph, which is what concerns us as Muslims:

“Ownership of the Western Wall belongs to Muslims alone, and they alone have the real right to it because it constitutes an integral part of the area of the Noble Sanctuary, which is part of the endowment property. Muslims also own ownership of the sidewalk located in front of the wall and in front of the area known as Al-Magharibi Quarter opposite the wall, because it is endowment according to the provisions of Islamic law.” For the directions of

righteousness and goodness.”

It also stipulated: “The tools of worship and other tools that Jews bring and place near the wall may not, under any circumstances, be considered or have the effect of creating any real right for the Jews to the wall or to the sidewalk adjacent to it.” The decision included a number of other points, the most important of which were: “Prohibiting bringing seats, symbols, mats, chairs, curtains, barriers, and tents, and not allowing Jews to blow the trumpet near the wall.”...The provisions of this order were put into effect on June 8, 1931, and the British government issued a white paper on the subject that recognized Muslim



ownership of the place and their disposition of it. Both the international ruling and the White Paper forced the Jews to adhere to their borders, and soon the Jewish voices apparently faded regarding the issue of the wall.

On the basis of that, the King of Britain also issued a royal decree known as the “Western Wall Decree of 1931”, which was published at the time. In the Official Gazette of Palestine.

Brig Agha Ahmad Gul (R), has served in senior management positions in different sectors and has been Vice Chancellor of the University of Baluchistan, Quetta. He currently holds the position of Consultant - Founder Head BTTN.

CULTURAL CORNER

GANDHARA CIVILIZATION



GANDHARA CIVILIZATION

A CULTURAL CROSSROADS OF ANCIENT SOUTH ASIA

INTERACTION
TEAM

Gandhara is an ancient Indo-Aryan civilization that flourished in the northwestern regions of present-day Pakistan and northeastern Afghanistan. Its heartland included the Peshawar and Swat valleys, stretching across the Indus River to Taxila in the Potohar Plateau and into Afghanistan's Kabul Valley, all the way up to the Karakoram Range.

It shared borders with Bactria (an ancient Iranian civilization in Central Asia), Ariana (a district extending between Central Asia and the Indus River), Arachosia (a part of the Achaemenid Empire mainly centered around the Arghandab River, Afghanistan), and Sattagydia (an area from the east of the Sulaiman Mountains up to the Indus River in the Bannu basin, KP), making it a vital crossroads for various civilizations.

This kingdom had capitals at different locations, including Kapisi (Bagram), Pushkalavati (Charsadda), Taxila, Puruṣapura (Peshawar), and eventually Udabhandapura (Hund) along the River Indus. The name



"Gandhara" finds its roots in various ancient languages, but it is primarily derived from the Sanskrit word "gandha," meaning "perfume," reflecting the region's role in trading aromatic spices.

HISTORICAL ROOTS

The roots of this civilization date back to the Vedic period (1500-500 BC), with references in sacred texts like the Rigveda, Mahabharata, and Ramayana. King Pushkarasarin's reign around 550 BC marked a period of imperial expansion, followed by Achaemenid rule (the First Persian Empire,





from 550-330 BC) and Mauryan rule (322 - 185 BC). The golden era of Gandhara occurred during the Kushan Empire's rule (1st to 5th centuries AD). The region witnessed unparalleled artistic and intellectual growth, characterized by the fusion of Hellenistic and Indian influences, leaving a rich legacy.

Gandhara gradually declined over the centuries, facing invasions from the Alchon Huns (Central Asian tribes) in the 6th century AD. However, its cultural and artistic contributions continued to influence the region until the conquest by Mahmud Ghaznavi in 1001 AD, marking the end of the Gandhara civilization. Gandhara played a pivotal role in disseminating Greco-Buddhism and Gandharan Buddhism across Central and East Asia, leaving an indelible mark on the region's culture, language, and art.

REDISCOVERY

In the 19th century, British interest in the region led to significant discoveries, including coins from the post-Ashoka period in the 1830s. Archaeologists like Charles Masson, James Prinsep, and Alexander Cunningham deciphered the Kharosthi script and identified numerous Buddhist shrines. In 1848, Cunningham discovered Gandhara sculptures, and he located Taxila in the 1860s. Between 1912 and 1934, archaeologist John



Marshall's work at Taxila revealed separate Greek, Parthian, and Kushan cities, along with numerous stupas and monasteries.

After 1947, researchers such as Ahmed Hassan Dani from the University of Peshawar unearthed more findings in the Peshawar and Swat Valley, with contributions from universities worldwide.

CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC LEGACY

Gandhara's cultural legacy remains a significant part of Pakistan's identity. Its connection to Buddhism, the spread of the religion, and the preservation of historical sites continue to be celebrated. Pakistan boasts several Buddhist archaeological sites, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites like Taxila and the ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Sahr-i-Bahlol (Mardan, KP).

Continued on page 36



THE NUCLEAR INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE (NIA)

INTERACTION
TEAM

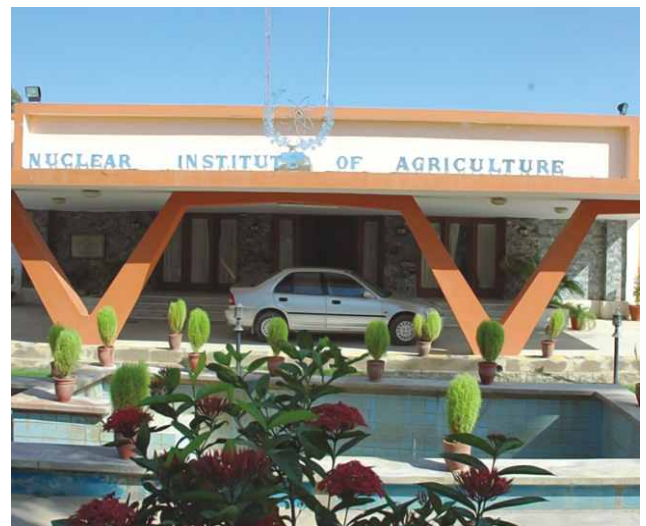
This series is dedicated to showcasing the remarkable achievements and vital contributions of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and its affiliated institutions. It aims to provide readers with insights into Pakistan's nuclear advancements, including nuclear science, energy production, healthcare breakthroughs, agricultural innovations, and environmental conservation, all driven by PAEC's pioneering efforts. The series draws extensively from the insightful book "Johari Nishtar e Tehqeeq," the first-ever Urdu book on the topic, authored by the Chief Editor of the monthly Interaction, Nusrat Mirza. It offers a unique perspective on untold stories, significant milestones, and the unwavering commitment of PAEC and its dedicated scientists and researchers.

The Nuclear Institute of Agriculture (NIA) is the first-ever agricultural research institution, established in Tandojam, Sindh, in 1969 by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC). NIA's primary focus is on agricultural research and development.

Its goal is to enhance Pakistan's agricultural productivity and food security through techniques such as radiation and isotopes for agriculture, soil fertility management, crop improvement, and pest control. NIA's divisions include:

1. PLANT BREEDING AND GENETICS DIVISION

This division prioritizes breeding crops like wheat, rice (coarse varieties), cotton, and sugarcane for improved yields, disease resistance, and stress tolerance. They also explore tissue-cultured sugarcane and banana seedlings in collaboration with the private sector, evaluate NIA-developed sugarcane varieties, and maintain a molecular marker database for germplasm.



2. PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION

In this division, the focus is on managing insect pests, including sugarcane borers, fruit flies in mango and guava, cotton insect pests (borers and mealy bugs), and rice stem borers.

They address post-harvest losses in cereal grains and pulses and conduct plant pathology for NIA's mandate crops. The

division aims to commercialize NIA-developed bio-control cards and traps, involving the private sector.

3. PLANT PHYSIOLOGY DIVISION

It screens wheat and rice germplasm for salt and drought tolerance, studies stress tolerance mechanisms and evaluates wheat and rice genotypes based on specific traits. Additionally, they research fruit retention in mangoes through phyto-hormone application.

4. SOIL SCIENCE DIVISION

NIA's Soil Science Division emphasizes micronutrient nutrition of crops, integrated plant nutrient management, field-level adaptability, utilization of salt-affected soils, and understanding the nutritional requirements of crop varieties developed at NIA.



In a nutshell, the Nuclear Institute of Agriculture is a key player in Pakistan's agricultural advancement, using nuclear science and technology to improve practices, increase food production, and ensure food security.

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GANDHARA CIVILIZATION

These sites contain stupas, monasteries, and sculptures, reflecting Gandhara's historical importance. The Swat Valley in Pakistan, a part of the Gandhara Civilization, is known for its archaeological remains and Buddhist sites. The artistic legacy of Gandhara remains a source of inspiration for contemporary artists in Pakistan. The Gandharan art style, with its unique blend of Hellenistic and Indian influences, continues to captivate art enthusiasts. Buddhist sculptures from Gandhara, particularly those of the Buddha, remain essential to Pakistan's artistic heritage.

The Gandharan style's influence can be observed in various art forms, including contemporary interpretations of Buddhist themes. Moreover, Gandhara's historical sites attract tourists and researchers, contributing

to cultural exchange and educational opportunities in Pakistan.

Educational institutions in Pakistan, particularly in the Peshawar and Swat regions, offer research and academic programs dedicated to the study of Gandhara's history and archaeology. Pakistan's government collaborates with international organizations to invest in the preservation and restoration of Gandhara's historical sites. The UNESCO World Heritage designation for Taxila and the ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Sahr-i-Bahlol underscores the international significance of these sites. In conclusion, the reflection of Gandhara in today's Pakistan is evident in the preservation of its cultural heritage, its enduring artistic legacy, its contribution to tourism and education, and its recognition on the global stage. As Pakistan continues to celebrate its rich history and cultural tapestry, Gandhara remains a symbol of the nation's deep connection to its ancient past.

K-2 AND K-3 NUCLEAR PLANTS POWERING PROGRESS AND SUSTAINABILITY



**MIRZA KASHIF
BAIG**



Pakistan achieved nuclear power status almost 25 years ago, and its nuclear program is firmly committed to the safe and secure utilization of nuclear energy, with a strong emphasis on its peaceful applications to address various socio-economic challenges. Foremost among these challenges is the country's energy requirements, which have become a major concern for Pakistan.

The demand and supply deficit in this regard is quite significant, leading Pakistan to make substantial investments in the production of clean energy through civil nuclear power plants. Given Pakistan's increasing environmental changes and its vulnerability to global warming, the prioritization of clean energy is of paramount importance.

Karachi became the first Pakistani city to benefit from nuclear energy when the 135 MW KANUPP was connected to the grid on October 4, 1972. Now, KANUPP-2 & 3 (K-

2 & K-3), the third-generation nuclear power plants, are poised to supply 2200 MW of power to the national grid in May 2021 and March 2022, respectively. These plants represent some of the most advanced and sophisticated nuclear facilities, equipped with additional safety and security measures.

During their development, K-2 faced negative propaganda from certain quarters, citing a number of concerns, including:

1. Proximity to the city of Karachi
2. Being a port city, concerns similar to those seen at the Fukushima nuclear plant, particularly with respect to a potential tsunami, causing radiation leaks
3. Apprehensions regarding the absence of adequate evacuation plans in the event of such a crisis.

In the case of the K-2 and K-3 nuclear power plants, all these concerns have been addressed, and various precautions are in place. Rabita Forum International organized a seminar on March 1, 2014, to address these concerns.

S. NO.	PROJECT NAME	CONTRIBUTION/CAPACITY	STATUS
1.	KANUPP-2	1100 MW	Complete
2.	K3	1100 MW	Complete
3.	CHASHMA-V	1200 MW	Under Construction
4.	CHASHMA-I	330 MW	Complete
5.	CHASHMA-II	335 MW	Complete
6.	CHASHMA-III	335 MW	Complete
7.	CHASHMA-IV	340 MW	Complete

With unanimous consent from academia and city intellectuals, it was declared that the K-2 power plant poses no threat to the city. The power plant has been constructed at an elevation that can withstand 12-meter tsunami waves, and even if the waves are higher, its automatic safety system ensures a 0% radiation leak by shutting down the power plant.

Rabita Forum International organized another seminar on March 10, 2015, to further address these concerns. Dr. Mashiattullah, an expert scientist from PINSTECH, provided ample evidence to support that K-2 poses no threat to the city. The seminar had the presence of Mr. Naeem Ahmed Mughal (DG SEPA) and Prof. Dr. Waqar Ahmed from the Department of Environment at Karachi University.

Rabita Forum International organized a third seminar on June 4, 2015, to address all concerns related to the impact on sea life caused by the construction of this power plant. Dr. Mashiattullah from PINSTECH, Prof. Dr. Umm-E-Hani from the Department of Maritime at Karachi University, and Dr. Jamal Ahmed Siddiqui, Head of the Department of Sea Life, along with Mr. Waqar Ahmed Palipoto (Deputy DG SEPA), all endorsed that K-2 poses no threat to sea life.

On December 24, 2017, educators, journalists, and students from Karachi visited KANNUP-I, KANNUP-II, and KANNUP-III. They were satisfied with the progress after witnessing the construction process.

WHY CHINESE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT?

Pakistan has sought Chinese assistance at various stages in the process of importing and establishing power plants. This decision has been driven by the following reasons:

1. China is a reliable, all-season friend.

2. China is the sole country actively aiding Pakistan in the development of civil nuclear reactors, in compliance with international standards, including those set forth by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
3. Chinese power plants are equipped with some of the most robust safety measures.
4. Pakistan had the option to choose between state-of-the-art nuclear power plants and outdated conventional power plants, and it wisely opted for the former.
5. These power plants underwent initial testing in China, and following successful results, they were deployed in Pakistan.

Pakistan's civil nuclear power plants and their contribution to the national grid are as follows:

ENERGY POLICY

The energy sector, to a large extent, has been owned and operated by the Government of Pakistan (GoP). During the last two decades, the GoP has formulated various policies and programs to reform the energy sector. In addition to improving the efficiency of public sector institutions, policies have been made to increase private sector participation in the development of the energy sector.

A legal and institutional framework has been established for the restructuring of energy sector entities owned by the public sector and to create a market in which private companies can operate under regulatory authorities to provide energy/electricity on a competitive basis.

The Government of Pakistan formulated the Medium Term Development Framework (MTDF) 2005-10, which translates the vision of long-term (2005-30) sustainable development into a mix of actions and policies to determine the role of the public sector in the development process and to facilitate the

private sector in playing its role.

The Framework identifies issues in the energy sector to design strategies for development and policies for their implementation. The aim of the current energy policy is to ensure a sustainable supply of energy to all sectors of the economy at a competitive price through the development of indigenous energy resources (coal, hydro, nuclear, and renewables) and a reduction in energy import dependence.

PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

Broad areas in which nuclear energy contributes to Pakistan's socio-economic uplift are as follows:

1. POWER GENERATION:

As discussed in detail, nuclear energy serves as an efficient source of power generation. It is a clean source of energy, unlike fossil fuels, and the production capacity of a nuclear power plant is significantly higher when compared to other forms of clean energy sources.

2. DEVELOPING HIGH-YIELD STRESS-TOLERANT CROPS:

Pakistan has established four agricultural centers that use energy to optimize important crop varieties, develop better methods for input and product conservation, and maximize the use of innovative technologies. More than 89 new high-yielding, stress-



tolerant crop varieties have been created.

We have saline agriculture technology for the economic utilization of salt-affected lands and have developed a low-cost Laser Land Leveler that enables efficient irrigation. Additionally, we've developed integrated pest management and the sterile insect technique.

3. CANCER TREATMENT:

Pakistan has one of the highest rates of cancer, especially among women. The PAEC has established 19 hospitals throughout Pakistan that offer cancer treatment to approximately 0.8 million patients annually. These services are intended to expand further.

4. DESIGN AND FABRICATION OF INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND EQUIPMENT:

The Heavy Mechanical Complex-3 (HMC-3) in Taxila is one of the leading organizations in Pakistan's engineering sector. Its ultimate goal is self-reliance, indigenization, import substitution, and providing technical support to the industrial sector in the country. NMC-3 distinguishes itself with sophisticated, hi-tech, and precise manufacturing.

The main aim of NMC-3 is to enhance the design, manufacturing, inspection, and testing capabilities to produce hi-tech equipment, parts, and components for upcoming hydel, thermal, nuclear power plants, and alternate energy projects. It also meets the needs of other organizations in the country working in the oil and gas, energy, and industrial sectors.

HMC-3 boasts state-of-the-art facilities for fabrication, forging, welding, machining, testing, and heat treatment. It is the first engineering establishment certified by the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) to produce Nuclear Safety Class 1, 2, and 3 equipment and components in Pakistan.

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INTERCONNECTED REALITIES:

AFGHAN REFUGEE EVACUATION'S CONSEQUENCES FOR PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN



SYED SAMIULLAH



Pakistan has consistently displayed unwavering compassion as one of the world's largest refugee-hosting nations, extending a helping hand to those in dire need of sanctuary for over four decades. The roots of this humanitarian endeavor trace back to April 1978 when Afghanistan witnessed a mass exodus.

The catalyst for this migration was the overthrow of the government of Muhammad Daoud by the Marxist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), which had previously seized power from Afghan King Zahir Shah in 1973 through a nonviolent coup. The situation escalated significantly with the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979. The aftermath of this turmoil saw more than four million Afghans seeking refuge in Pakistan, as documented by The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Demographically, the majority of Afghan citizens found solace in the Pashtun-

dominated regions of Pakistan, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Quetta-Chaman area of Baluchistan. However, a smaller segment opted to settle in urban centers such as Karachi, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Lahore, and Azad Kashmir. According to the UNHCR report as of June 30, 2022, Pashtuns constitute the largest ethnic group among Afghan citizens in Pakistan, making up 85% of the population, with the remaining 15% comprising Uzbeks, Tajiks, and other ethnicities.

The distribution of Afghan refugees in Pakistan is uneven, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa hosting the largest proportion at 52.3%, followed by Baluchistan (24.5%), Punjab (14.4%), Sindh (5.6%), Islamabad (3%), and Azad Kashmir (0.3%). Their relatively smooth integration into local customs and culture is facilitated by historical, ethnic, religious, and linguistic ties between Afghan immigrants and the Pakistani population.

The year 1988 marked a turning point when the Soviet Union made the decision to withdraw from Afghanistan. In 1992, following the departure of the Soviet-installed leader Najibullah from power, approximately one and a half-million refugees returned to their homeland. However, the situation in Kabul deteriorated as various mujahideen groups engaged in a power struggle to control the capital and its surrounding areas.

This instability gave rise to a new wave of displacement, affecting possibly up to a

million people, the majority of whom remained within Afghanistan as internally displaced people (IDPs). In 1996, after a year-long siege, the Taliban seized control of Kabul and gradually expanded their dominion throughout the country. While they brought a semblance of peace to the areas under their control, a significant number of Afghans, particularly those with an educational background, chose to flee due to the Taliban's stringent interpretation of Islamic customs, which imposed severe restrictions on women's rights, education, and cultural life.

The final surge of refugees from Afghanistan occurred during the U.S.-led invasion in October 2001, prompting an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 individuals to seek refuge elsewhere. This protracted history of Afghan migration and its impact on Pakistan underscores the enduring humanitarian commitment and the shared cultural and historical ties that bind the two nations.

Moreover, it is estimated by the Government of Pakistan that an additional 600,000 individuals have sought refuge in the country since the events of 2021, taking shelter in neighboring Afghanistan. As revealed by Sarfarz Bughti, Pakistan's interim Interior Minister, approximately 1.73 million Afghan nationals currently reside in Pakistan without valid Proof of Registration (PoR) cards or visas. In response to this, the Pakistani government has initiated a crackdown, urging these individuals to leave voluntarily by November 1, 2023, or face deportation.

It is imperative to carefully and fairly examine this situation. Pakistan has indeed shown generosity in accommodating hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees for the past four decades, with their numbers fluctuating over time. During this period, many Afghans crossed the border without

possessing valid passports and visas. In light of the improved security situation in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of American and NATO forces, Pakistan's decision to encourage their return to their homeland is a valid one. R

Reflecting on the consequences of prolonging the hosting of such a large refugee population, the Government of Pakistan has identified several issues that have arisen at various levels. Security concerns have increased over time, with some refugees becoming involved in terrorist activities. Notably, the Army Public School attack in 2014, orchestrated from Afghanistan, underscored the need for enhanced border management and stricter monitoring from both sides.

Recent attacks originating from Afghanistan, the presence of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan in Afghanistan, and the lack of serious action against them have further fueled Pakistan's determination to take significant measures, including the deportation of Afghan nationals. The Pakistani government alleges that Afghan nationals were responsible for 14 of the 24 suicide bombings witnessed in the country this year, supported by evidence provided by Pakistan's caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti.

Another pressing issue raised by Pakistan concerns the involvement of Afghan citizens in smuggling activities. While there were



RESPONSE OF HOST	Balochistan	Islamabad	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Punjab	Sindh	Total
Community Dont't know	9%	4%	5%	0%	9%	7%
Extremely Welcoming	18%	39%	29%	59%	23%	27%
Unwelcoming	7%	4%	3%	0%	5%	4%
Welcoming	66%	52%	63%	41%	62%	61%

instances of Pakistani citizens and authorities also engaging in illicit trade, Afghan nationals played a pivotal role in smuggling goods from Pakistan to Afghanistan. This illegal trade has severely impacted Pakistan's economy, resulting in scarcity of essential commodities. Over the past few months, a significant amount of dollars, grain, sugar, and other necessities were smuggled, leading to near economic collapse and shortages of wheat and sugar in local markets. On the flip side, goods smuggled from Afghanistan into Pakistan, including opium, hashish, heroin, lumber, precious stones, copper, automobiles, and electronics, have exacerbated the situation.

Additional concerns revolve around issues like fake identities, economic burdens, job shortages, and disloyalty. Reports suggest that over 200,000 Afghans have obtained fake Pakistani citizenship and identity documents, such as Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs), in violation of the Pakistan Citizenship Act 1951, which clearly states that those who migrated to Pakistan after April 18, 1951, are not considered Pakistani citizens.

The economic burden has grown as most Afghan nationals, as per the Federal Board of Revenue, evade paying taxes or underreporting their income. Afghan traders have significantly contributed to increased imports, impacting the local market. Furthermore, the presence of hundreds of

thousands of Afghan nationals has limited job opportunities for Pakistani citizens, leading to private discussions among officials and Pakistani nationals about a growing sense of disloyalty among some Afghans towards Pakistan.

While acknowledging Pakistan's valid grievances, it's crucial to recognize that these issues have underlying causes. The Afghan Taliban and Afghans also have legitimate concerns. Such disputes often arise among neighboring nations due to evolving regional dynamics, but that doesn't excuse a lack of understanding.

Over the past two decades, Pakistan could have played a more constructive role, but it faced constraints. Now, Afghanistan, especially the 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan,' has a chance to contribute positively, although they too have their limitations.

Mutual understanding and cooperation between both sides can lead to positive outcomes, while failure to do so may result in the undesirable consequences desired by the West, particularly the United States. Pakistan needs to understand that it is nearly impossible to evacuate people from a region within a short duration of one month where they have been living for four decades some of whom, in fact, may never have even set foot in Afghanistan.

A critical priority for Pakistan, its police, and the armed forces is preserving mutual

respect. Pakistan has hospitably hosted a large Afghan population for decades. It is unjust and perilous to tarnish their perception of Pakistan and incite anti-Pakistani sentiments. This is especially concerning because a 2018 survey conducted by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) revealed that Afghans had largely held a positive view of their host community. It is essential to avoid transforming these once-positive perceptions into negative ones, as indicated by the survey's findings:

It's essential to closely monitor the actions of the police, especially in light of the disturbing videos circulating that show Afghan women, children, and the elderly being subjected to humiliation. As Muslims, we should all remember and reflect upon the profound words of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him): "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should not hurt his neighbor, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should serve his guest generously" (Bukhari-6136). To address this situation, several measures can be taken. Firstly, there is a strong case for extending the deadline by a minimum of three to six months, taking into account the request made by Afghan spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid for an extension. Secondly, it is imperative to oversee the evacuation process with utmost precision, ensuring that every Afghan refugee is treated



with respect and safely repatriated.

Thirdly, Pakistan should consider the implementation of specialized visa services for refugees, simplifying the documentation process for them. Moreover, the introduction of Golden Visas, akin to the one Qatar has introduced, allowing Afghan traders a ten-year visa with certain restrictions, could prove mutually beneficial. Fourthly, expanding the number of dedicated facilities and camps established to aid Afghan refugees would greatly facilitate the evacuation process and ensure its smooth execution. In addition to these steps, improving border control security and actively avoiding confrontations is essential. Such a positive approach has the potential to strengthen the relationship and yield favorable outcomes for both parties involved.

The author is a Research Officer at Rabita Forum International (RFI).

nuclear program.

K-2 AND K-3 NUCLEAR PLANTS

6. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT:

Pakistan has made extensive investments in developing indigenous capabilities and human resources to sustain its civil nuclear program. State-of-the-art training facilities and institutions have been established to provide high-level education to scientists and engineers, who form the backbone of our

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, Pakistan remains devoted to the peaceful use of nuclear technology and is committed to the safety and security of its nuclear program. Pakistan's commitment to its environmental goals is evident through its investments in clean projects such as K-2 and K-3, as well as CHASHMA 1 to 5.

The author is the Editor of Monthly Interaction.

A SLAP ON THE WRIST IS NOT ENOUGH FOR INDIA'S STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM



LT. COL. (R)
AZFAR BILAL
QURESHI

FAILURE TO CONDEMN INDIA FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM HAS EMBOLDENED NEW DELHI TO EXPAND ITS TERRORIST NETWORK



The bombshell revelation in the House of Commons by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of the Indian government's involvement in the brutal killing of Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil has sent shockwaves through the international community, which has woken up people from their slumber to the reality of India's emergence as a state sponsor of terrorism.

He called it an “unacceptable violation” of Canada's “sovereignty” and “contrary to fundamental rules by which free, open and democratic societies conduct themselves”. He told the media that the “case had far-reaching consequences in international law”. Trudeau has called upon India to cooperate in the murder probe. According to media reports quoting Canadian government officials, allegations of Indian government's involvement in the assassination were based on surveillance of Indian diplomats in Canada

and inputs provided by one of the members of the Five Eyes, an intelligence-sharing alliance comprising of the US, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

The US position on the allegations has quickly evolved from a cautious initial response to all-out support for Canada, a neighbouring country and fellow NATO member state. The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has called on India to cooperate with Canada and ensure “accountability” over the killing of Nijjar.

Blinken has emphasized that the US was “in touch with both India, with which it has warming ties, and Canada, a close ally, after the two countries engaged in tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions”. He has stressed that the US took “very, very seriously” incidents of “transnational repression”.

The US National Security adviser has underscored that the US would stand up for its principles and not give India any “special exemption” on the serious allegations of involvement in the murder of Nijjar in Canada. According to Director of the South Asia Institute at the Washington DC-based Wilson Centre Michael Kugelman, it is rare for the US to make such remarks.

The US Ambassador to Canada has indicated to CTV News that intelligence from Five Eyes led Canada to link India to the killing of Nijjar. Canadian Ambassador to the UN in

New York Bob Rae told CBC News several weeks before going public that Canada had shared its deep concern and reliable information about the killing with the Indian government as part of the 'quiet diplomacy process'. Prime Minister Trudeau had also raised the issue personally with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi "in no uncertain terms" on the sidelines of the recent G20 Summit held in New Delhi. Pakistan's reaction to Canadian revelation about Indian state-sponsored assassination on its soil has been forthright and expressed at various levels.

During a press conference in New York on September 22, 2023, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar called for the formation of an international alliance to keep in check the "rough behaviour" of India. He termed the assassination a first-of-its-kind event after World War I, triggered by the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. He also underscored that Pakistan had been a victim of Indian state-sponsored terrorism and shared evidence at different global and multilateral forums.

Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson stressed that the news of Indian involvement in the killing in Canada had demonstrated that India's "network of extraterritorial killings had now gone global". Commenting on Canada's shocking revelations about the assassination, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Pakistan has caught many Indian "spies involved in terrorism in our country, but they have now been caught violating the sovereignty of a NATO member state".

Nijjar was the latest addition to the list of Sikhs who have been eliminated in Indian-sponsored targeted killings in recent years:

1. Ripudaman Singh Malik was assassinated in July 2022 in the same Canadian

- community of Surrey, British Columbia.
2. Paramjit Singh Panjwar was shot dead on May 6, 2023 in Lahore, Pakistan.
 3. Avtar Singh Khanda died in Birmingham (UK) on June 15, 2023 under mysterious circumstances. Khanda is believed to have been poisoned. However, West Midlands Police told BBC that they were not opening an investigation.

Indian state-sponsored terrorist and espionage activities are nothing new. Over the years, several Indians, including serving and retired military personnel involved in espionage and terrorist activities have been caught in different countries. In 2019, a German court convicted an Indian couple living in Germany of spying for India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

In March 2016, Pakistani authorities arrested Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, a serving Indian Naval officer working for RAW, for fomenting terrorism. He was operating under a Muslim name (Hussain Mubarek Patel). In August 2022, Qatari authorities arrested eight former Indian naval officers spying for Israel on Qatar's secret submarine programme. In 2014, the UAE arrested and later convicted two Indian nationals for providing sensitive information about the UAE to Indian intelligence.

Continued on page 50



COMMAND: THE POLITICS OF MILITARY OPERATIONS FROM KOREA TO UKRAINE

LAWRENCE FREEDMAN (LONDON:
PENGUIN BOOKS.2022.609PP



IRAJ ABID

He who wishes to be obeyed must know how to command. Niccolo Machiavelli, the Prince

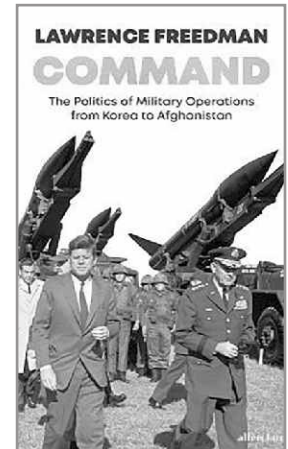
Command enables effective wielding of military power. Lawrence Freedman, Emeritus Professor of war studies at King's College London, explores the dynamics of command in military conflicts in his book *Command: The Politics of Military Operations from Korea to Ukraine*. Examining fifteen conflicts and crises since World War II, the book delves into the interplay between military and politics and their impact on military operations. It raises critical questions regarding the strategic complexities arising from civil-military relations during conflict situations.

The book begins with a comprehensive examination of the term "command" in military parlance. Freedman establishes that command entails more than issuing and obeying orders; it necessitates responsibility, accountability, and individuals of exceptional character throughout the chain of command. Drawing on insights from military historians and strategists, the author encapsulates the qualities of a good general.

He argues that, in addition to strategic acumen and determination, a commander's coup d'œil, or intuitive grasp of the situation, determines the outcome of a war. Political astuteness carries more weight than courage and tactical abilities. Eisenhower, in the author's view, exemplified a great commander due to his astuteness rather than heroism (p.

5). The exercise of command faces challenges on both political and operational fronts. The author explores the issues arising from disharmonious politico-military relations. Ideally, political and military powers should remain separate. In democratic systems, the civilian government bears the responsibility for decision-making, while military command provides advice on the feasibility of objectives. Once the political leadership agrees on a set of aims, the implementation and operational decisions should be entrusted to the commanders.

The dismissal of General Douglas MacArthur by President Harry Truman during the Korean War exposed tensions in the command relationship and raised serious questions about the appropriate course of action for a general asked by the Commander-in-Chief to pursue an illegal or contradictory path. However, the idea of a military officer disobeying the political leader is deemed extremely risky as it presents a potential rationale for a coup d'état (p. 29). Under the Kennedy administration, the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 highlighted issues related to the operational control of nuclear assets. The nuclear command and control



system required a degree of automaticity to address emergencies. However, the specter of nuclear war meant that any accident or misunderstanding could trigger a catastrophe. Truman and Kennedy sought to control field commanders to avoid escalation, while Richard Nixon attempted to exert control to exacerbate tensions in Vietnam in 1972. These examples underscore the complexities of command in different contexts (p. 175).

The French wars in Algeria and Indochina exemplified the disconnect between political leadership and fighting armies, raising rational and ethical questions regarding the decision to engage in futile wars or employ immoral methods to achieve strategic objectives. According to the author, victory can be achieved through extreme means, but military solutions are not always necessary for political struggles (p. 70). Ariel Sharon of Israel serves as a classic example of insubordination towards civilian control. Sharon often circumvented and manipulated the chain of command, believing that orders issued far from the battlefield lacked reliability (p. 152).

Military regimes negatively impact the operational performance of armies, as political direction and military action are consolidated under a single person. This tends to be counterproductive during wars. Examples such as the Falklands campaign in 1982, led by military juntas, demonstrate the detrimental effects of flawed command structures resulting in strategic errors. Personalist dictators like Saddam Hussein consolidated both political and military power. By controlling the official narrative, Hussein created a false impression of victory in the Iraqi nation during the wars of 1980-88 and 1991. However, a regime composed of loyalists led by delusions rendered the

command structures dysfunctional, leading to a terminal defeat by the US in 2003.

In fragile states with weak institutions and legal systems like Congo, individuals can build 'power structures' around them. In such societies, the armed forces symbolize power, but kinship and loyalty often override competence and professionalism (p. 309). Political divisions, when deepened, can strain or even break the chain of command, as observed during the Russian invasion of Chechnya in 1994. Command structures in military alliances are fraught with complexities as multiple actors with different perspectives and interests must cooperate as exemplified in the conflict between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1999.

Since 2014, the Russia-Ukraine conflict that started with hybrid tactics has evolved into a full-fledged war in February 2022. The author opines that Putin's underlying political assumptions led to flawed military assumptions and Moscow failed to achieve its initial objectives in Ukraine (p. 398). The US war against the Taliban and ISIS demonstrates the increasing complexity of conventional campaigns, particularly in counter-terrorism and counterinsurgency. The changing nature of warfare requires adaptations in command structures, especially considering the rapid emergence of technologies like Artificial Intelligence and new realms of warfare such as space and cyberspace. Freedman's book provides a well-referenced and excellently written exploration of the topic. The author's storytelling style keeps the reader engaged throughout the chronicles. It unquestionably deserves a place among the must-read texts on command and military strategy.

Ms Iraj Abid is a Research Officer at the Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS).

THE TORRENTIAL FLOW OF EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF PALESTINE AND ISRAEL IS HEART-WRENCHING



**NOREEN
CHOUDHRY**



Arab-Israeli wars are a series of military conflicts between Israeli forces and various Arab forces, most notably in 1948-49, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, 2006, and recently in 2023. During World War I, Allied campaigns in the Sinai and Palestine led to the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire. The League of Nations granted Britain control of the region, creating Mandatory Palestine.

After ousting the Ottomans, the area was under martial law, governed by the British, French, and Arab Occupied Enemy Territory Administration until the Ottoman armistice and the mandate's promulgation in 1920. The British Mandate, including the Balfour Declaration, was confirmed by the League of Nations in 1922 and took effect in 1923.

Transjordan was part of the Mandate under separate rules, excluding it from the Balfour Declaration. Between 1929 and 1938, 250,000 Jews arrived in Palestine, leading to the 1936-1939 Arab revolt against British rule due to tensions between Arab nationalism, seeking control over former Ottoman territories, and the British commitment to creating a Jewish homeland.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations voted to partition British-mandated Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, leading to immediate clashes between the two groups. As British troops prepared to leave, conflicts intensified, with both Jewish and Arab forces engaging in hostilities.

The infamous attack on the Arab village of Deir Yassin on April 9, 1948, and subsequent events like the attack on a Jewish convoy headed for Hadassah Hospital heightened tensions. The Israeli Declaration of Independence in 1948 ignited the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, resulting in the expulsion and flight of Palestinians and Jewish emigration from other Middle Eastern regions to Israel.

On May 14, 1948, the state of Israel was established, leading to further violence and civil war, with various Arab Liberation Army regiments intervening in distinct sectors around coastal towns. In 1948, Israel declared independence, sparking intense fighting as Arab forces from Egypt,



Transjordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon occupied areas in southern and eastern Palestine.

They captured East Jerusalem, while Israel gained control of the main road to Jerusalem and repelled multiple Arab attacks. By early 1949, Israel occupied most of the Negev region, excluding the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Fedayeen insurgency, a cross-border conflict from 1949 to 1956, involved Palestinian militants and Israel.

Emerging from Palestinian refugees, the fedayeen conducted operations in Israel from Syria, Egypt, and Jordan, initially to reclaim lost lands and agricultural resources. This conflict led to significant casualties on both sides.

In the Suez Crisis of 1956, Israel, the United Kingdom, and France invaded Egypt and the Gaza Strip to regain control of the Suez Canal and oust President Gamal Abdel Nasser, who had nationalized the canal. Political pressure from the U.S., the Soviet Union, and the United Nations led to the invaders' withdrawal, humiliating the UK and France.

The casualties included 172 Israelis killed, 817 wounded, 22 UK soldiers killed, 96 wounded, and 10 French soldiers killed, 33 wounded. Egypt suffered 1,650 killed, 4,900 wounded, and 6,000 taken as hostages. Arab and Israeli forces clashed for the third time on June 5, 1967, in what came to be called the Six-Day War (or June War). In that war, Arab and Israeli forces clashed for the third time.

Tensions had escalated with Syria's attacks from the Golan Heights and Egypt's mutual defense pact with Jordan. Israel responded with a sudden air assault, crippling Egypt's air force and achieving a decisive victory on the ground. They regained control of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. Arab casualties were significantly higher than Israeli

casualties, with an unofficial report citing 280,000 Arab casualties compared to 779 Israeli soldiers.

The conflict following the Six-Day War escalated into a full-scale war in 1973. On October 6, Yom Kippur (the Jewish holy day), Egypt, and Syria surprised Israel by crossing the Suez Canal and entering the Golan Heights.

The Arab forces exhibited greater aggression and combat proficiency compared to previous wars, resulting in heavy Israeli casualties. While Israel managed to reverse early losses, encircle the Egyptian Third Army, and enter Syrian territory, they never regained their initial Suez Canal fortifications, which Egypt had destroyed in its initial successes.

This conflict, lasting through the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, concluded on October 26. Israel, with 54,000 soldiers, 1,500 tanks, 3,000 armored vehicles, 945 artillery pieces, 561 fighter jets, 84 helicopters, and 38 ships, faced off against Egypt's 300,000 soldiers, 2,400 tanks, 2,400 armored vehicles, 120 artillery units, 690 fighter jets, 161 helicopters, and 104 ships. Israel signed formal ceasefire agreements with Egypt on November 11 and with Syria on May 31, 1974, along with a disengagement agreement between Israel and Egypt on January 18, 1974.

In June 1982, less than six weeks after Israel's complete withdrawal from the Sinai, rising tensions between Israelis and Palestinians led to the Israeli bombing of Beirut and southern Lebanon, where the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had strongholds. Israel invaded Lebanon the following day, advancing as far as the outskirts of Beirut by June 14.

Although Beirut was encircled, the Israeli government agreed to cease its advance and negotiate with the PLO. After considerable

delay and extensive Israeli shelling of west Beirut, the PLO evacuated the city under the supervision of a multinational force. Subsequently, Israeli troops withdrew from west Beirut, and by June 1985, the Israeli army had entirely left Lebanon.

In this conflict, 76,000 Israeli soldiers faced off against 37,000 Arab forces. The conflict resulted in 670 Israeli casualties and 9,800 Arab casualties. In July 2006, Hezbollah launched an operation against Israel in an attempt to secure the release of Lebanese prisoners.

The war lasted 34 days and led to over one thousand Lebanese casualties and the displacement of about one million people. Operation Al-Aqsa Flood was a series of coordinated attacks by Palestinians from the Gaza Strip into bordering areas of Israel, beginning on October 7, 2023, which was a

Sabbath day and coincided with several Jewish holidays. These attacks marked the start of the 2023 Israel Hamas war, nearly fifty years after the Yom Kippur War that began on October 6, 1973.

According to Amnesty International, Israel has been targeting residential areas, refugee camps, mosques, and even hospitals, resulting in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians. Calls for Israel to be held accountable for war crimes have been made.

The longer the Israeli assault on Gaza persists, the stronger the international condemnation and demands for an end to the conflict and the establishment of an international humanitarian corridor will become.

The author is a post-graduate in Mass Communication and a member of the Rabita Forum International (RFI) team.

Continued from page 45

A SLAP ON THE WRIST IS NOT ENOUGH

The revelation about India's involvement in the murder of Nijjar made at the highest political level in the Canadian parliament is a damning report against the Indian government and has established India's credentials as a state sponsor of terrorism beyond a shadow of a doubt.

It has also exposed India's global assassination and espionage network being run by India's spy agency, RAW. No wonder Canada expelled a senior Indian diplomat after Prime Minister Trudeau's statement revealed the diplomat was an undercover RAW station chief in Canada.

This affirms RAW's role as the international hit quad of India that it has assumed over the

years, especially under the extremist BJP government led by Modi.

The brazen assassination of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil has exposed India as a state sponsor of international terrorism. The international community's failure to condemn India for its international terrorist activities in the past for geopolitical considerations has emboldened New Delhi to expand its terrorist network from South Asia to Europe and North America.

Taking appropriate measures against India is therefore imperative. India needs to be reined in and not be allowed to threaten international peace and security further.

Lt Col (R) Azfar Bilal Qureshi, TI(M), is a Defence Analyst currently working as Associate Director Research at Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh.

INDIAN TERRORISM IN CANADA



**AREESHA
ANWAR**

On 8 October 2004, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted Resolution 1566, concerning threats to international peace and security caused by terrorism. In view of the seriousness of the issue, the Resolution was adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Paragraph 3 of the Resolution underscores that “criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death,” with a view to provoking “a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons” which constitute “offences within the scope of and as defined in the international convention and protocols relating to terrorism”.

Indian state-sponsored assassination of Canadian national Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil fits into the definition of criminal acts, offences and terrorism as elaborated in Resolution 1566. Nijjar was a civilian and his assassination terrorised the Sikh community in North America.

It is time for the international community to also take notice of an abominable practice by New Delhi to use its diplomatic missions in



foreign countries as launch pads for international terrorism and eliminating foreign nationals it dislikes. According to media reports, communications intercepted by Canadian intelligence of Indian diplomats in Canada has identified the “smoking gun”, indicating their involvement in the plot to kill Nijjar. The expulsion of the undercover Indian intelligence agency RAW's Station Chief based in the Indian High Commission in Ottawa immediately after Prime Minister Trudeau's revelations in the House of Commons about India's involvement in the assassination of Nijjar proved this point once again.

Use of diplomatic premises by India to launch terrorist attacks in the host country and its neighbours violates the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, which is aimed at the “maintenance of international peace and security, and the promotion of friendly relations among nations.”

India must therefore be held accountable for violating the provisions of the Vienna

Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Observers believe that the murder of Nijjar by Indian state agents should lead to closer scrutiny of activities of RAW in Western countries and Indian diplomats working undercover in Indian diplomatic missions abroad.

Although RAW is notorious for sponsoring terrorist acts and carrying out hits in India's neighbouring countries, it is for the first time that RAW has dared to bump off a national of a North American country on its soil. This gory incident and India's audacity have set off alarm bells in the countries hosting significant populations of Sikhs including Canada, the US, UK and Australia.

The development has also prompted analysts in many countries to question as to whether the much-trumpeted strategic partnership between some Western countries and India is based on shared values or interests. Indian actions in Canada also appear to have taken their toll on the US-India relations. According to recent media reports, the US Ambassador to India has warned the State Department that India-US ties "could get worse for a time" over Canada-India row.

Modi's terror doctrine is a manifestation of his extreme Hindutva ideology and expansionist dreams of "Akhand Bharat". His hostile ambitions have translated into a state of chaos and disorder within India and stoked up a religious divide within the country. Under Modi's rule, there has been a surge in hate crimes targeting minorities in India.

Around 90% of religious hate crimes in the past decade have occurred since Narendra Modi assumed office. India's global rankings for religious and press freedom have also slumped. Thousands of Muslims have suffered harassment, lost their lives and property, and have been falsely accused in the name of religion in India.

India under Modi has become a rogue state that sees no limit to its relentless pursuit of power. For Modi, India is a big power capable of getting away with impunity for its actions, and up until now, it has. The recent turmoil in the Indian state of Manipur serves as a troubling illustration of the persistent rise of Hindu extremism under Modi's leadership.

Two Christian women were subjected to a humiliating public ordeal, paraded naked through the streets of Manipur by Hindu extremists. This incident occurred against the backdrop of a state marred by a civil war-like situation, with a staggering toll of at least 180 lives lost, more than 1000 people injured and around 60,000 displaced since the violence erupted in May 2023.

Indian state-sponsored terrorism abroad coupled with saffron terrorism at home, targeting and brutalising minorities in pursuance of Hindutva-driven Hindu nationalist policies of the BJP government, is an explosive mix that carries the risk of gutting South Asia and causing incalculable damage to the interests of Western countries courting close relations with India. Serious measures are therefore imperative, to prevent India from becoming a Frankenstein Monster.

The author is a Research Officer at the Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS).



HOPE AWAY FROM HOME

CHANGING REFUGEES FROM STRANGERS TO ASSETS



**ASADULLAH
RAISANI**

I was 11 (in 2007) when I first time heard my father saying, “He is a Afghan refugee,” while pointing toward a boy. The boy seemed of my age and a local Pashtun had hired him to wash his dishes and serve plain potato rice to his customers. The cart was located near the Russian Market at Masjid Road, Quetta.

I did not bother to ask my father what a refugee is. I heard this term many times over the years. These refugees have brought black money here; these refugees have started buying the properties of our ancestors; these refugees have penetrated every field, and yes, they should go back.

I thought the same way that these Afghan refugees should immediately go back until I encountered an Afghan teenage bike mechanic, Bashir, in winter last year. While tuning my motorcycle Basheer shared how his father got martyred in the USA's war on terror when he was only five. He shared that his father was a sympathizer of the USA against the Taliban and he was most probably killed by the Taliban.

He was not certain about the murderers of his father. Then his maternal uncle along with his family, took Bashir, his mother, and younger brother and came to Pakistan. His uncle intended to find a job in Karachi but they could not manage to go to Karachi. They lived in Chaman for some time, then in Kuchlak, and then finally settled in Quetta.

He shared that his younger brother works in a bakery on Zarghoon Road. Both brothers



do not remember anything about their home, and both can neither read nor write. In short, Bashir and his family have no hopes of a better life back home, that is, in Afghanistan. For them, Quetta is their world.

There are millions of such people with millions of such stories that the world has not heard about, as the total number of displaced people globally has reached 100 million. A great majority of these 100 million do not see any positive prospects back home.

The recent data reveals the unwelcoming, sometimes inhuman behaviour of the host communities with these refugees. For instance, one in five women refugees experiences sexual violence. However, if given basic education and market-required skill set, women refugees alone can contribute over \$1.4 trillion to the global annual GDP.

Overall, there are some one million forced Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh, over 3 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, 1.4 million

registered Afghan refugees, and almost the same number of undocumented Afghan refugees, living in Pakistan.

Approximately 800,000 Afghan refugees are hosted by Iran; and Lebanon, a war-torn country itself, hosts around 1.5 million Syrian and Palestinian refugees. These numbers are horrifying as even developed states like the USA and the UK are reluctant to accept refugees beyond a certain number each year. How then is it expected from the developing nations to share their resources with more people when they are already struggling to justly distribute resources among their own population?

There is a need to have a better and long-term mechanism to equip these refugees with basic education and market-required skills so that they can contribute to society. In the meantime, efforts should be made to restore stability and peace in the conflicted areas so that these refugees can go back home and help improve things there too.

For these refugees to contribute to the host and then home communities, their documentation should be made easy, and their refugee identity cards or such types of identity documents should get renewed every 12 months. This process can immediately start in developed countries; however developing states can take some time to initiate the issuance of such cards.

People with such cards or documents should be provided basic incentives and free basic medical facilities with the help of INGOs and NGOs to ensure their physical, mental, and financial well-being. Second, they should be given at least basic education. They should at least know how to read and write. Their basic degree should be matric if not more than that. This will ultimately empower them to either go for further studies or learn a skill.

Third, they should also be given market-required skills for online as well as offline modes of earning. Polytechnic institutes, English coaching centres, and computer learning institutions should be promoted in host communities, especially in areas where a great number of refugees are settled.

Fourth, inclusivity is necessary for such refugees who hardly manage to make ends meet. A great majority of them learn skills to earn a respected livelihood and contribute to society. They should be seen as assets and not liabilities.

They should be backed by the governments of host communities, as well as by INGOs and NGOs to support them in mastering their skill sets. Still, things may not remain steady as a great number of host communities are already struggling in many ways.

Therefore, in the meantime, efforts should be made to bring negative peace in conflict or war-torn states. In sum, the 11-year-old kid serving plain potato rice to his master's customers, Bashir, and his younger brother, who work on daily or weekly wages, have hardly anything left behind at home.

Their inclusivity in the social structure of the host states can give them hope away from home. Their rights and inclusivity can be ensured by first and foremost certifying their existence by providing them with legal documents in host countries.

The provision of basic facilities, education, and proper skills will not only assure their inclusivity in any society in the world but will also empower them to contribute to the reconstruction of their homeland once the dust starts settling there.

Asadullah Raisani is a Research Officer at Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN), Quetta.

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

INTERACTION/RFI IS HONORED TO SHOWCASE THESE SINCERE LETTERS OF APPRECIATION FROM OUR VALUED CONTRIBUTORS. THANK YOU TO PROF. DR. ZAFAR, ED-BTTN FOR SHARING HIS KIND GRATITUDE WITH US.



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Mapping Pathways for Sustainable Policy Solutions

Prof. Dr. Zafar Khan
Executive Director

BTTN/DO/06/61

22 Sep 2023

Mr. Nusrat Mirza
Chief Editor
RFI Magazine
Karachi

*Dear Nusrat Mirza,
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Many thanks for sharing copies of RFI's monthly magazines 1) *Interaction* and 2) *Zaviah Nigah*, September 2023. Grateful to RFI for considering and publishing a few articles from BTTN Faculty of Research.

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Best wishes,

*Sincerely yours,
Zafar Khan*

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At BUIITEMS, Airport Road, Balchi Quetta, Phone: +92-81-2873345 Ext: 108, Fax: +92-81 28733346, E-mail: zafarkhan@bttn.org.pk, URL: www.bttn.org.pk



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Mapping Pathways for Sustainable Policy Solutions

Prof. Dr. Zafar Khan
Executive Director

BTTN/DO/06/65

Mr. Nusrat Mirza
Chief Editor
RFI Magazine
Karachi

18 Oct 2023

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