



NEWSLETTER

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TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Achieving Peace in Afghanistan: Challenges and Prospects



Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) organized a Two-Day International Conference on "Achieving Peace in Afghanistan: Challenges and Prospects" on May 10-11, 2017 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad.

Speakers from Afghanistan, China, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States participated in the conference and presented their papers. The conference was aimed to discuss the achievement of peace in Afghanistan and the capacity and capability of the state institutions to achieve the same. The conference focused on following main themes:

- Existing Situation in Afghanistan
 - Structural Problems in the Security of Afghanistan: Review of Non-Traditional Challenges
 - Peace Initiatives by Regional Partners and Coalition Countries
 - Achieving Peace in Afghanistan: A Way Forward
- Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Foreign Affairs, inaugurated the conference as the Chief Guest. The concluding session was chaired by Ms. Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan.

The Chief Guest, H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Foreign Affairs, in his inaugural address said that Pakistan has always made sincere efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan. Referring to Pakistan's assistance to Afghanistan, he said that Pakistan has initiated several development projects in Afghanistan worth US\$ 500 million. Moreover, Pakistan had extended transit trade facilities in Afghanistan through its ports under Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA). However, it is the issues such as the lack of progress in the peace process, emerging threat of the Islamic State, drug trafficking and the resettlement of returning refugees, hampering the process needed to bring stability in Afghanistan. He further stated that meaningful

engagement between Pakistan and Afghanistan is essential for peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region.

During the inaugural session, Brig (R) Sohail Tirmizi, Acting President, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in his welcome address said that Pakistan has higher stakes in the stability of Afghanistan as the conflict has a direct bearing on Pakistan. He said that bringing warring parties of Afghanistan to the negotiating table requires an outstanding effort from all the regional and global stakeholders for peace to occur in Afghanistan. It was highlighted that the rise of the Islamic State in Afghanistan adds a new complex dynamic to the Afghan conflict. Besides, the political instability and the polarization in Afghan society are not the only challenges but there are various socio-economic challenges as well including the country's dependence on foreign aid, illegal parallel economies, drug trafficking, gender inequalities, poverty, illiteracy and radicalization of society that are needed to be addressed on a priority basis. He added that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan will facilitate regional economic integration and help to curtail extremism in its own society and the region as well.

Mr. Kristof Duwaerts, Resident Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), in his opening remarks said that Obama Administration devised the term Af-Pak that seems relevant due to the deep intertwining of history and the future of Pakistan and Afghanistan. It was said that their exist various commonalities between the two countries and there effective use can outweigh the divergences which is an important requirement for the initiation of a sustainable dialogue process to address the diverging issues.

Following are the salient points of the conference:

- Dr. Farhan Hanif Siddiqi (Pakistan) identified geo-politics and geo-economics as the two important regional dynamics in the current scenario. It was said that momentarily, the geo-political dynamics,

Continued on p. 2

Achieving Peace in Afghanistan:

Continued from p. 1

Unfortunately, have been very hostile in the region. However, geo-economics being the other dynamic, is equally interesting keeping in view the initiation of CPEC.

- Dr. Attaullah Wahidyar (Afghanistan) while discussing the ingress of non-state actors in Afghanistan, stated that there are obviously internal as well as external factors that create an environment within a state for non-state actors' activities. It was also pointed that each time, there is a serious effort to normalize the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, or Pakistan and India, incidents of terrorism increase. He argued that such a situation leads us to two conclusions i.e. a) may be, there are actors within the states who do not want the normalization of relations or b) may be, there are outside powers who do not want Pakistan to be in good relations with its neighbors.
- Maj. Gen. (R) Ijaz Hussain Awan (Pakistan) while explaining the need for border management in the particular case of Pakistan and Afghanistan, said that border management of uncontested borders between peaceful states is done politically and diplomatically, but where the borders are contested or one of the sides is unstable and willing to go to war then states resort to military management of the borders.
- Mr. Sayed Mahdi Munadi (Afghanistan) while discussing importance of economic initiatives, stated that transportation links must be developed among Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. While highlighting the benefits

of port facilities from the perspective of economic development, regional integration and foreign investment in Afghanistan, it was added that Afghanistan needs both Chabahar and Gwadar port. Various countries' contributions in providing economic aid and assistance to Afghanistan alongside the initiation and completion of economic projects can ensure security in Afghanistan.

- Mr. Rahimullah Yusufzai (Pakistan) while discussing the state of human security in Afghanistan, identified that the Afghan National Unity Government has been suffering from internal differences and slow decision-making process. He said that discontentment in Afghan masses has been increasing while quoting the result of a survey which showed that 81 percent of Afghans are dissatisfied with the Afghan Government.

- Maj. Gen. (R) Khawar Hanif (Pakistan) while discussing financial resources of terrorism said that unrest always facilitates organized crimes and terrorism. He said that prior to 9/11, Taliban brought down the level of poppy cultivation in Afghanistan to 8,000 hectares, while the statistics of 2016 showed the 201,000 hectares land is being used for poppy cultivation. While



Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Foreign Affairs, inaugurated the conference as the Chief Guest

- categorizing financial resources, charities, religious funding, diaspora donations and endowments were identified as legitimate sources and drugs and human trafficking, arms smuggling and Hawala system of money transfer as the illegitimate ones.
- Dr. Omar Zakhilwal, President's Special Envoy and Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan, in his keynote address called for the need to understand the definition of peace but considered it difficult to be understood in the context of Afghanistan. He highlighted that the way, the war has been fought in Afghanistan has created more difficulties than it has resolved, making terrorism a more complex phenomenon than ever before as Daesh has also entered into the arena.
- Dr. Marvin G. Weinbaum (US) while presenting his views on the US Vision of the End State in Afghanistan, said that without recognizing a vision, it is impossible to talk about peace. He viewed that President Obama sought to implement a new strategic approach in Afghanistan, which featured a military surge that was expected to clear the way for the disengagement of US forces from the country. He suggested that like Obama's administration, all major stakeholders need to do the same and lower their sights for an end-state, and be willing to settle for an Afghanistan whose security, stability and governance is just 'good enough.'
- Dr. Grigory Tishchenko (Moscow) while discussing Russian perspective on Afghanistan, said that Moscow supports the legal Government in Afghanistan. He pointed that since Pakistan is the key country for ensuring its stability, it is important to continue the present Russian-Pakistani interaction. It was pointed that any deterioration in the security situation

of the region threatens Russia as well. He said that as Russia and China are huge sponsors of the Afghan government in the military and economic spheres therefore, it is essential to add the Afghanistan peace to the SCO agenda.

- Dr. Seyed Rasoul Mousavi (Iran) while reviewing Iranian perspective on Afghanistan, opined that the US being the main security guarantor has no specific strategy for Afghanistan. He said that Afghanistan's 'trilemma' lies in three main and key problems: Stability, Security and Development. Unfortunately, none of the governments and political parties in Afghanistan has been able to find a balanced approach. He recommended that Afghanistan needs a 'Power Re-sharing Solution' in which there must be participation of all Afghan major political and social players in the central government and local administration, without excluding anyone.
- Mr. Owais Ahmed Ghani (Pakistan) said that there exist numerous commonalities between Afghanistan and Pakistan that can be helpful in building peace, for instance, the common trading system (in which Afghan refugees could be the main drivers) alongside the use of a common currency and language.
- Dr. Liu Zongyi (China) while presenting his views on building consensus among major stakeholder countries, said that



Session Chair, Ambassador (R) Inam-ul-Haq

Dr. Farhan Hanif Siddiqi

Dr. Attaullah Wahidyar

Maj. Gen. (R) Ijaz Hussain Awan



Session Chair, Lt. Gen. (R) Asif Yasin Malik

Mr. Sayed Mahdi Munadi

Mr. Rahimullah Yusufzai

Maj. Gen. (R) Khawar Hanif

Challenges and Prospects

Pakistan's position and insight about peace in Afghanistan must be respected. He emphasized that China considers the Afghan people as the major stakeholders of the Afghan issue. He recommended that diverse regional connectivity efforts of individual stakeholders in Afghanistan must be synergized, and the US should support Russian efforts for establishing peace in Afghanistan. There should be an international consensus on an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process which must accept the Taliban as a legitimate stakeholder as Western democracy cannot be transplanted in Afghanistan.

- Mr. Michael Semple (UK) said that the Taliban see themselves different from the Kabul elites and wish to run an Islamic Emirate. He opined that Taliban must be asked to forego violence since there is a moral authority behind negotiating an agreement on that premise. Besides, there is a paucity of decision-making in Afghanistan due to trust deficit on all fronts which leads to failure of the reconciliation process.

During the concluding session, Ms. Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in her closing address said that Pakistan has a policy of maintaining friendly ties with its neighbours. She highlighted that Pakistan desires a meaningful and constructive engagement with Afghanistan as both states share history, culture, ethnicity and religion. She said that Pakistan gives priority to enhance people-to-people contacts between the two countries. She said that the emerging realities of Afghanistan in the form of Daesh and other violent actors present alarming challenges for Pakistan. Moreover, an efficient border management mechanism is the need of the hour and it must also be in place. She said that Pakistan desires that Afghan refugees should return to their homes with dignity and honour however, the international community must assist Afghanistan in the reintegration of Afghan refugees. She stated that Pakistan believes in no military solution to the Afghan conflict, but a political resolution.



Ms. Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary, the Chief Guest of the Concluding Session, while receiving Memento from Brig. (R) Sohail Tirmizi, Acting President, IPRI

The Acting President IPRI, Brig. (R) Sohail Tirmizi while thanking the participants for their valuable contributions, concluded that an intra-Afghan reconciliation process will spur a political and democratic environment between all stakeholders to the conflict, eventually leading to enduring peace and stability in Afghanistan.



Major Recommendations

- Although the Afghan peace process should be Afghan-led and Afghan-owned but at the same time, building peace in Afghanistan is a shared responsibility of all the regional and global players. A reconciliation process must be facilitated to find a politically negotiated settlement. For this purpose, the concerned stakeholders, including the Afghan Government, the Taliban and regional/global players need to sit together on the negotiating table to focus on aspects of mutual cooperation which is specifically required against the threat of Daesh.
- Today, the rising transnational activities of the non-state actors are posing serious threat to the economic development and security of regional countries. In order to weaken these non-state actors, the regional countries will have to give up their obstinate positions. The lack of cooperation, mistrust and rivalries among the regional countries provide a conducive environment to the extremist groups to exploit such an environment to their advantage. The way forward is to resolve all outstanding issues between different stakeholders through a sustained and meaningful dialogue.
- A mutually supporting politico-military strategy should be preferred. The Afghan traditional Jirga system should also be given due consideration. Earlier, the international community had neglected the demands of the Afghan Taliban, which should now be examined as only such a strategy is expected to lead to the national political reconciliation in Afghanistan.
- The geo-political competition coupled with ideological contradictions have negatively impacted the Afghan peace process. All the stakeholders need to give up their regional rivalries and contradictory approaches, and look at the resolution of the Afghan imbroglio from a wider spectrum, i.e. focusing on regional integration in the context of the OBOR, the CPEC, CASA-1000 and TAPI projects.
- The geo-political and the geo-economic dynamics offer both opportunities and challenges to the region. Geo-economic factor can become the major motiva-

Interaction with Chinese Scholar



Dr. Lai-Ha Chan, Senior Lecturer, Social and Political Sciences Programme, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, and visiting Fung Global Fellow at Preston University, the US visited Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on May 12, 2017 for an interactive session with IPRI scholars. Dr. Chan's research area is Asia Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Presently, she is working on the Belt and Road Initiative at Preston University, the US. She is carrying out a study of China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a bilateral initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a multilateral project.

While discussing the CPEC, Dr. Chan said that Pakistan-China relations involve strategic cooperation on political, economic, and military levels. However, the initiation of CPEC project has added a fresh dimension to the bilateral relations which are likely to fortify in the forthcoming years. Dr. Chan remarked that back in 2007, the then Pakistan's leadership proposed the idea of corridor to China. The CPEC

project is pivotal to the entire Belt and Road initiative. She said that the corridor would lessen China's dependence on the Malacca Strait (Southeast Asia), and would diversify the energy routes. Likewise, Pakistan's Gwadar port would become a trading hub by connecting Central, South and West Asia. The inter-regional connectivity would boost economic activity, empowering the regional states, this, in turn, would also enhance the immunity against the extremist threat.

Over Indian objections to CPEC, IPRI scholars said that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory. However, the Kashmir on Pakistan's side, including Gilgit-Baltistan, enjoys autonomy while the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) is subservient to India's forceful

occupation. The Kashmiris living in IOK are victims of Indian brutalities. If India is opposing the passing of CPEC through Gilgit-Baltistan, it should also stop the development work in IOK, and let the people of the area decide their future through a plebiscite, in line with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. As per the UNSC Resolutions on Kashmir, the decision, whether Kashmiris wanted to be part of Pakistan or India, needs to be done through a plebiscite to which India refuses because it knows that it will lose the state.

While discussing the extremist tendencies in the region and counter collaborative strategies, IPRI scholars said that Pakistan rejects militancy in all its forms and manifestations. It was added that due to the military operations, the security situation in the country has improved considerably.

Furthermore, given the situation of institutions in Afghanistan, it can be said that the Afghan government alone is not capable of countering terrorism. To address the threat of Daesh and for diluting the threat of the Taliban, the concerned stakeholders need to modify their policies. The recently concluded Moscow talks (April 14, 2017) supported a dialogue with the Taliban. The idea was to jointly fight the Daesh, and limit the terrorist group's regional ingress, which largely remained unsupported by the US.

On the election of Mr. Trump as President, Dr. Chan viewed that his policies differed widely from those of his predecessors. More so, it was added the termination of the Transpacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, often referred to as the economic arm of the pivot to Asia signaled that the US would re-think its policy towards the East Asian countries. However, the recent developments indicate that President Trump has started to soften his position with the regional allies in East Asia.

While discussing Chinese perspective on Pakistan-India and Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, Chinese scholar added that the economic development is the key to stability in the region. The Belt and Road initiative will benefit the regional states. With economic interdependence, the political disputes can be resolved amicably. It is hoped that the regional connectivity would improve Pakistan-Afghanistan and Pakistan-India relations, and set the pace of

regional economic progress.

An economically vibrant region will be in a better position to tackle the challenges of transnational terrorism also.

Further, it was opined that the Regional Anti-Terror Structure (RATS) established under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) could be useful in countering terrorism. The SCO has also established an 'Afghan contact group'. Through collaborative efforts, the threat of militancy could be countered and the region could open up towards inter-regional connectivity.



Upcoming IPRI Publication

Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints



It is a sad and ironic reality that when one talks of global peace as the ultimate objective nowadays, one is left rather perplexed because regardless of what world leaders and policymakers may say, it is not the end-all anymore even though it is only through peace that there can be just, equitable and sustainable development in any region of the world.

For South Asia in particular, peace holds greater relevance since its inhabitants continue to witness conflict and violence - from the streets of Kabul where the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan witnessed 80 people killed and over 350 injured in an explosion, to the young men and women wielding sticks against an onslaught of pellet gunfire in the idyllic but forcefully occupied Valley of Kashmir, from the mythical expanse of Bhutan (a country where they measure their output by the famous Gross National Happiness index) with its dark unresolved secrets of ethnic cleansing and mass deportations of the Lhotshampa, to the world's most populated country India that has seen 448,000 people displaced in 2016 alone due to violent secessionist movements. Are South Asians not ready to bury their hatchets and focus on working together for the greater good and well-being of humankind?

The authors in this volume from Beijing, Colombo, Islamabad, Kabul and Kathmandu admit that while the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has not been a 100 per cent effective organization, it needs to be given the chance to reform its Charter and expand its membership. There is unanimity that a Regional Conflict Resolution Mechanism and a People-Centric Model of Equitable Development is an essential need of the hour, the latter to not only include those at the extreme periphery but to also collectively address piracy, human and narcotic trafficking and arms proliferation. While South Asians may claim to have shared cultures and values, the ground reality is that far more people-to-people diplomacy and cultural tourism is needed to overcome decades of hostility and mistrust. The eight chapters in this book are also a clarion call for the 'Trade More, Fight Less' mantra, especially 'blue trade' across the sea and via economic corridors. Ultimately though, it is up to the political will of visionary leaders to carry the people of this rich and diverse region towards collective peace, prosperity and cooperation.

Achieving Peace in Afghanistan: Challenges and Prospects

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tion for peace in the region. Regional players need to transform their geo-political competition to geo-economic cooperation. This will help to optimize connectivity of the CPEC in the region and beyond.

- Security along the porous Pakistan-Afghanistan border needs to be beefed through political and military cooperation of both the countries so as to curtail illegal cross border movement. Apart from using military personnel to monitor illegal cross border movement, technical surveillance should also be used.
- Raising FC wings, fencing and electrification, technical surveillance through drones and aircrafts are few measures which have been unilaterally undertaken by Pakistan which could only be effective if Afghanistan cooperates to control border infiltrations as well. In this regard, the role of the US as a key facilitator in Pakistan-

Afghanistan border management will be useful.

- To allay misperceptions and negativity surrounding the Pakistan-Afghanistan bilateral ties, the political leadership on both sides needs to take initiatives for a meaning-



Brig. (R) Sohail Tirmizi, Acting President, IPRI and Mr. Kristof Duwaerts, Resident Representative, HSF



ful engagement. In this context, visits of high level political, diplomatic, intelligence and military exchanges between both countries must be institutionalized. People-to-people contacts must be promoted to reduce the trust deficit. In this regard, initiation of student exchange programmes, joint academic programmes of universities, etc. can improve the existing situation.

- The curtailment of opium production in Afghanistan is required as drug trafficking provides funding for the terrorist organizations. A strict control on the movement of opium is also needed. In this regard, timely and transparent intelligence sharing at regional level is necessary. To control drug movement, an effective international and regional coordination mechanism and operations, including enhanced Container Freight Stations (CFS), Inland Container Depots (ICD), and capacity enhancement of transit countries is required. There is also a need to delink counter narcotic efforts from the geo-political and geo-economic competition between countries.

Pakistan's Relations with Central Asia: Prospects and Challenges

Professor Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Qureshi, Founder & President, Society of Asian civilizations, Pakistan visited Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on May 17, 2017 to deliver a lecture on the topic, "Pakistan's Relations with Central Asia: Prospects and Challenges."

In his opening remarks, Dr. Qureshi said that at the time of Central Asian Republics (CARs) independence in 1991, Pakistan was among the first countries, which extended recognition to the CARs without any hesitation and Pakistani embassies were immediately established in all the Central Asian Republics. During the current month of May, 2017, the Central Asian states are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Pakistan.

Pakistan had signed six Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) in 1992 with the CARs in the field of economy, culture, trade and banking. The Government of Pakistan was determined to establish productive relations with the CARs but the situation in Afghanistan during 1990s impeded this.

The sluggish process of development of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Central Asia was however revived when Pakistan became the frontline state in the 'Global War on Terror'. Since then, frequent visits by the officials on both sides have been made, which is an evidence of improved bilateral relations. In this context, various

agreements have been signed between both sides to develop bilateral trade and economic cooperation. To boost collaboration in cultural and other fields, institutional level arrangements have been made and joint Economic Commissions (JECs) have also been established with all the Central Asian states. Currently, under a Special Technical Assistance Programme (STAP), initiated in 1992-93, Pakistan is providing training facilities, which are fully funded by the Government of Pakistan. The programme includes courses ranging from English language, banking and accountancy to diplomacy.

The increasing significance of the CARs across the world has made Pakistan active in enhancing its relations with Central Asia in general and in particular with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Resultantly, the trade turnover between Tajikistan and Pakistan has steadily risen from US\$ 18 million in 1998 to US\$ 89 million in 2014. The main area of cooperation between the two countries is 'energy sector' in which Pakistan is deficient and facing crises. To overcome energy shortage, the CASA-1000 (Central Asia South Asia-1000) is a major cooperation project between the two countries. But unfortunately, due to uncertain security situation of Afghanistan, the CASA-1000 is not on

the priority agenda of both sides.

In post 9/11 environment, one of the major reasons in hampering the development of rapid relations between Pakistan and Central Asia is the Afghan conflict that is still

blocking Pakistan's physical access to the region and, vice versa. Pakistan's decision-makers and strategists have worked out a solution to this on-going decades old problem. They have developed and operationalized an alternate route (Pakistan-China-Kyrgyz-Kazakhstan Transit Agreement) to Central Asia through Karakoram Highway, Khunjerab and China.

More so, the Kyrgyz Republic has surplus hydro-power resources which could help Pakistan to overcome its energy crisis. Pakistan is trying to evolve firm economic relations with Uzbekistan and establishment of Pakistan-Uzbekistan Joint Ministerial Commission is a major step in this direction. Although the current volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan is relatively low (over US\$ 24 million), but both the countries have agreed to increase the volume of trade up to US\$ 300 million during next five years. Besides, both sides are eager to enhance bilateral relations to new heights based on win-win cooperation. Pakistan is keen to advance its ties in all fields predominantly in the energy and the economic sectors.

Pakistan and CARs should exchange parliamentary and other governmental and non-governmental delegations very frequently and focus on people-to-people contacts. The expansion of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) air network to Tashkent in Uzbekistan and Alma Ata in Kazakhstan is a major step forward in cementing ties with these two states. The PIA has also finalized plans for air services to the capitals of the other three Central Asian States. The Uzbek Air and Tajik Air have begun flights from Tashkent and Dushanbe to Lahore. A cheap and regular air cargo service between Pakistan and the Central Asian states is the need of the hour.

Also, Pakistan has a railway network with Zahidan in Iran that should be extended to Turkmenistan via Surruk border so that CARs could be linked via railway with Pakistan as well. Besides, Central Asia can benefit from the proposed upgradation of Sino-Pakistan railway network and Karakoram Highway [named as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)]. Moreover, the development of Gwadar port and the CPEC project is a golden opportunity to change the destiny of the



region as Pakistan could provide a bridge between Central Asia, South Asian, the ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) and the EU (European Union) countries.

Besides, there is an immense scope for cooperation between the Universities of Pakistan and those in Central Asia. Pakistan, with a low literacy rate of 30 percent, can learn a great deal from the Central Asian states, which have made nearly 95 percent of their population literate. There is a need to develop academic, educational, scientific and cultural relations between Pakistan and Central Asia.

Interaction with IPRI's Non-Resident Scholar

French Scholar, Mr. Didier Chaudet, Editing Director of CAPE (Center for the Analysis of Foreign Affairs) and Non-Resident Scholar associated with IPRI, visited IPRI on May 02, 2017 for an interactive session with IPRI scholars and research staff. Mr. Chaudet spoke on the topic, "The Geo-political Situation in South Asia as seen by European Perspective."

Following the foreign intervention in Afghanistan, Mr. Chaudet said that in Afghanistan, the political entities, elites and media owners criticize the 'foreigners' as problem, which narrows down the scope of reconciliation and gives space to conspiracy theories. Over the past few months, a coalition between Russia, China, Pakistan and Iran has been trying to work out peace in Afghanistan. He opined that if Russia wants the Government in Kabul to have dialogue with the Taliban, it does not mean that they support the Taliban but they are accepting the reality. It was said that dynamics of conflict could change, if a regional cooperation order is implemented in Afghanistan with the support of foreign powers. It was pointed that seeing the deteriorating situation in Middle East and Afghanistan, there are important lessons for major powers to learn.

While discussing the European Perspective on Geo-politics in South Asia, it was said that there is a difference between the Europeans and the Americans which has been reinforced by the occurrence of Brexit in Europe and election of Donald Trump as the US President. It was said that only a unified Europe can have impact on the geo-politics of Asia and South Asia, in particular. However, the current situation such

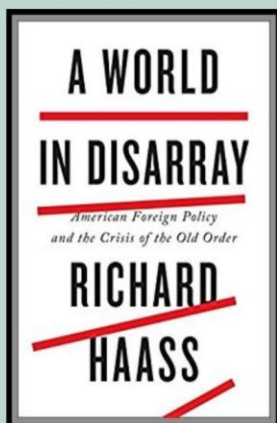


as the emergence of populists in Europe, Scottish Referendum, Europe-Russia relations, future of UK vis-à-vis Brexit has raised serious confusions in speculating the future of Europe. It was also mentioned that the Eu's current focus is on the issue of Brexit but the European states will continue to analyze the global issues side by side. However, the protection of the core interests of Europe itself, Middle East and Eurasia will remain to be a top priority.

Given the political and security scenario in South Asia, there exists a desire in Europe to push for a dialogue between India and Pakistan as issues between both countries are growing intensely. More so, if observed keenly, China in today's world is able to talk with various countries in different regions with the underlined goal of regional and global stability which is very much what Europe wants. For Europe, China's emergence as a global power will bring equilibrium in place. Given the interplay of global policies and real politics, today, Afghanistan is an unresolved quagmire, Iraq is a weak state and Syria is also a consequence of this old Cold War game.

It was further added that peace in South Asia can only be achieved by establishing equilibrium between Pakistan and India. It was viewed that CPEC has brought Pakistan into a whole new light; many in Europe are now seeing Pakistan as an emerging economy, new economic power house and spine of Chinese New Silk Route which must be taken on further. The promotion of soft power for Pakistan should not stop on South Asian affairs, but instead it must be extended across the regions, both East and West wards.

A World in Disarray American Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Old Order

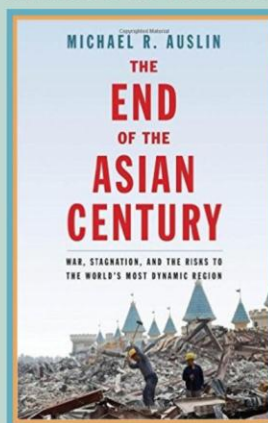


Author: Richard Haass

"This is a thought-provoking book that suggests the new foreign policy 2.0 requires more global engagement."

- Huffington Post

The End of the Asian Century: War, Stagnation, and the Risks to the World's Most Dynamic Region



Author: Michael R. Auslin

"Auslin argues powerfully for a dose of reality when assessing the current situation in Asia and its future problems and prospects."

- George P. Shultz, former US Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury, and Distinguished Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University

Col (R) Muhammad Hanif, Research Fellow

"CPEC highlighted at belt and road forum at Beijing!" (*Pakistan Observer*)

"CPEC: It's Impact on Peace-making in South Asia" (*Pakistan Observer*)



Asghar Ali Shad, Research Fellow (Urdu Articles)

"RSS... Nai chal?" (*Nawa-i-Waqt*)

"Ye andaz-e-guftagu kia he...?" (*Nawa-i-Waqt*)

"Na aye ache din...?" (*Nawa-i-Waqt*)

"Ye Baharti mazalim aur...!" (*Daily Pakistan*)

"Ye Baharti muhim joi...!" (*Nawa-i-Waqt*)



Muhammad Munir, Research Fellow

"FATA Islahat: Aik Aham Zaroorat"

(*Hilal Magazine*)



Khalid Chandio, Research Fellow

"Trump's maiden visit to KSA"

(*Pakistan Observer*)



Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Research Officer

"Afghanistan Conundrum" (*Pakistan Observer*)

Saman Zulfqar, Research Officer

"Turkish President's visit to India"

(*Pakistan Observer*)



Amna Ejaz Rafi, Assistant Research Officer

"India's Duplicity: Case of Commander Yadav"

(*Pakistan Observer*)



Gulshan Bibi, Assistant Research Officer

"Making peace is harder than making war"

(*Pakistan Today*)

"Peace by Peaceful means" (*Pakistan Observer*)

Khurram Abbas, Assistant Research Officer

"Pakistan-EU relations" (*The Nation*)

"Third American engagement in Afghanistan"

(*The Nation*)



Aymen Ijaz, Assistant Research Officer

"OBOR Summit and India's concerns"

(*Pakistan Observer*)



Maryam Nazir, Assistant Research Officer

"Riyadh Summit" (*Pakistan Observer*)



Adeel Mukhtar Mirza, Assistant Research Officer

"Either by a hawk or a dove"

(*The Express Tribune*)



Call for Papers IPRI Journal Winter 2018

The IPRI Journal is a biannual peer-reviewed publication of the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). It is an HEC recognised 'X' category Journal, which is Pakistan's second highest category for Social Science Journals. The objective of the Journal is to produce, foster and disseminate research, policies and ideas, primarily from Pakistan and the Global South, from the fields related to Social Sciences and International Affairs. Research scholars are invited to submit **original, unpublished** articles and book reviews for the **Winter 2018** Issue.

Submission Deadline: September 30, 2017

Papers/articles should be concise and not exceed 8,000 words, including an abstract of 150-200 words. Reviews of recent books by scholars of standing in their field should comprise of 1000 words. Guidelines for Contributors are available at:

<http://www.ipripak.org/category/journals/>

Authors are requested to submit soft copies in MS Word format, a brief bio-note as author of no more than 30 words, complete contact address (email as well as postal), telephone and fax numbers to the Editor at:

Email: ipri.editor@gmail.com

Printed copies should be sent to the Institute's postal address.



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