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## Machinations of US geopolitics

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The awful misery of widespread destruction and human devastation wrought by the US-NATO military invasions, covert interventions, and US-sponsored UNSC/EU sanctions against many (mostly Muslim) countries in the world, is continuing unabated specially since the first US-NATO invasion of Iraq in early 1990s. On their part, US and its allies describe their actions as 'war against terror', and/or establishment of a new world order to 'promote democracy and human rights'!

Any objection to such of their actions is immediately dubbed by US, its allies and cronies as objection from 'Islamists', 'Islamic radicals', or 'al-Qaeda'. However, despite the immensity of the direct and proxy propaganda of US-NATO to that effect, some published material, even from the non-Muslim scholars and researchers, has also become available to bring to light the realities of the machinations of this sinister imperialistic game of US and its allies.

Since the people of Pakistan are also sensing grave impending danger from the US machinations clearly discernible to be already afoot, a proper grasp of these is warranted. This short piece presents an evaluation of the published information, matching the ground realities; as also the 'cautionary' conclusions drawn from that evaluation, to indicate the way out for the people of Pakistan.

From amongst the published material on US imperialism, the book of Eric Walberg is worth referring to. In his book 'Postmodern Imperialism: Geopolitics and the Great Games', he has dealt in detail with this subject. A valuable commentary on the book by Joseph Michael Gratale,

published in European Journal of American Studies, highlights many of the salient researched assertions in the book. Some of the excerpts from that commentary are specially of note. It mentions that in his book, Eric Walberg has examined many aspects of the contemporary imperialism which "includes scrutiny of the geopolitical interests of the US and its new developments in financial and military-political strategies to ensure control over the world's resources". As for the basics of imperialism, Walberg has elaborated with the example of the pre-modern imperialism of the then British Empire, "The British Empire became a hegemonic power by playing off other powers against one another, building a global economic network which would serve the interests of the center at the expense of the periphery, and when 'diplomatic' efforts failed, the use of military power was utilized".

Very obviously those machinations of the British Empire were the casual factor of the then prevailing environment of wars, conflict, instability, and devastation in many parts of the world. Such external domineering also continued in the Cold War era, albeit in a rather 'structured' variation of geopolitics, principally between US and USSR. In that, one of the US machinations was a number of CIA sponsored coups and other forms of intervention in different countries, as mentioned extensively by Walberg.

However, after the breakup of USSR, US assumed the role of the sole super power of the world and aggressively embarked upon the creation of a 'new world order' to establish its geopolitical strangle-hold in the regions of politic-economic significance around the world. That US move, as mentioned by Walberg created an environment in the world "characterized by instability, unpredictability, and flux". And, further elaboration of that geopolitics of US is provided by the commentary - some excerpts: "What began to emerge, according to Walberg, was a concerted American effort to gain control and influence in Mackinder's 'Eurasian heartland.' This "renewed and energetic thrust by the US," states Walberg, "for world economic and political hegemony from the Balkans to China's frontiers required the securing of oil supplies in both the Middle East and the newly opened central Asia". "The arrival of the neoconservatives in the George W. Bush administrations, and the events of 9/11 helped in implementing the geopolitical-imperial agenda of the US". "The war in Iraq and present-day tensions with Iran over its nuclear programme reveal an overlapping of interests between the US and Israel.

While for Israel the issue might be security in the face of a strong regional power, for the US, geopolitical and economic interests abound. Hence, according to Walberg, the interests of both countries converge in keeping the region immersed in conflict, division, and disintegration". The commentary also highlights: "America's weapons, however, were not only of a military nature. A key element in its arsenal was the rising power of the US dollar and its status as the world's reserve currency. The economic power wielded by the US was institutionalized by the creation of international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the IMF, and GATT".