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Regional responses to US global agenda

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Except the American Revolutionary War also known American War of Independence, fought from 1775 to 1782 against colonial power; Britain and later on the American Civil War, prolonged from 1861 to 1865, United States has never fought a war in its motherland. Therefore, the current generation of Americans cannot really understand the devastations; the war brings in a country where it is fought. It becomes part of World War-I in 1917, once there were clear indications that the results of the war were going to be in the favour of Allied powers. At that US President Woodrow Wilson issued his infamous 14 points, which later became the basis of the discriminatory “Versailles Treaty”. This was the first US exposure at the global level. Otherwise, WW-I is known as the European War as five major European powers of that time participated in the war. Upon termination of WW-II, consequent to the nuclear attacks on two Japanese cities, United States formally got the status of an unparalleled global power. Thereafter the Soviet Union though provided a balancing factor to avoid any further misadventure in the form of another world war, but US remained engaged in the proxy wars through its allies or directly by sending its own forces against the spread of Communism. US finally succeeded in shooting down the Communist Soviet Union in early 1990s and attained the status of the sole super power. The status obligated US to issue its own world order, which was unveiled in the form of Globalization. Apparently the concept means that world is like a global village and because of increasing connectivity there is an enhanced interdependence at the global level. But practically its connotations have been kept vague by design to keep the world at perplex and act at the global level the way it suits the US national interest. Iraq became the first casualty of the global order where US was able to secure its long term interests in the West Asia (Middle East) by stationing its forces there and extracting huge Arab wealth either in the form of cash or through let out of regional black gold resources as a cost of war for defeating Saddam’s Baathist Iraq, thus giving freedom to the fearsome Arab monarchs. The incident of 9/11 provided US with an open warrant to invade anywhere in the world under the garb of so-called global war on terror. To begin with, it invaded war ridden Afghanistan, where its own trained and sponsored Mujahideen or Jihadists like Osama Bin Laden, Mullah Omar and their accomplices, preordained for former Soviet Union were ready to be renamed as the

terrorists. The war in Afghanistan had killed thousands of the people mostly innocents ever since October 7, 2001, but the war wagers could not trace the top leadership of the Al-Qaeda and Taliban, in spite of the fact that US drones and other surveillance devices could see ants swarming on the soil. One may not comment about the untraceable status of these wanted militants, but it is sure that after their arrest and likely bringing those to the justice, US and NATO would not have any excuse to stay in Afghanistan or in the region. Such a scenario may not be liked by the US or its European allies for the time being. Long-term stay in Afghanistan and establishing itself in Central Asia are all corollaries to US multipurpose strategies in the region. It is widely believed that while based in Afghanistan with strong basis in Central Asia, United States has a global agenda to put into practice. In the views of analysts, the long-term agenda include; containment of China through a multi-pronged approach, planned to be implemented through its allies in East Asia through Japan, South Korea and even its own 80,000 military there, Southeast Asia through the ASEAN and now through physically part of treaty and in South Asia through US natural ally India. At the same time US is highly conscious of the resurgent Russia and would go all out to contest this power balancing phobia. Some of the recent Russian actions like attack on Georgia, test firing of long range intercontinental ballistic missile and strong opposition of missile shield in the countries of Eastern Europe by US are tangible factors in Russian resurgence, which really bothers United States. The recent meeting between the US president with his Russian counterpart though being considered as a success, but Russia desires that its former position as the super power be accepted. Both Russia and China desire that US should leave Asia early as possible. But US has the plan to keep a strong check on these two resurgent powers. Apart from these, domination, if not possession of the hydro-carbon rich Central Asian and Caspian regions have always been an American dream. US desires its companies to explore and further sellout these resources elsewhere in the world market while denying their access to Russia, China or any third country in the region. Iran, a bone of contention for the US, share borders with Afghanistan and Central Asia. US desires neutralization of its role in the regional politics as well as bludgeoning of its nuclear programme. Till date both aspects are being seriously guarded by Iran. Following the recent elections in Iran, US and West were able to make a dent in the internal politics of Iran. Pipeline politics is yet another area of interest for the US, where it desires that neither Russian nor Iranian soil be made use of for the pipelines from CARs and Caspian regions to Europe or elsewhere in the world. US prefers using the route from the Central Asia to Turkey and then on to Europe, as in the case of Baku-Tbilisi and Ceyhan Pipeline. This crude oil pipeline is 1768 kilometres long passing through Azerbaijan (Baku) - Georgia (Tbilisi) and Turkish port (Ceyhan) to Europe through Mediterranean Sea. For rest of the region, especially India, US desires a pipeline from Central Asia to India through Afghanistan and Pakistan. This bypassing strategy is unacceptable to Russia, as the former pipelines of the regional oil and gas pass through it. Pakistan's nuclear programme is otherwise under debate since its nuclear blasts in 1998. More often, US officials and think tanks have been showing their concerns over the safety of Pakistan's strategic assets, especially with regards to growing militancy of Taliban and al-Qaeda. Authorities in Pakistan considered these as a misperception by US and west desires to force Pakistan for a possible denuclearization. Indeed the command and control system of Pakistan's strategic assets has been founded on such a strong footings that, what to talk of militants, world's modern nuclear experts would never be able to have an air of these. Some of US writers, scholars and a number of think tanks have been found continuously conspiring against Pakistan. A Pentagon based retired colonel Ralph Peter had the guts to imply and anticipate new map of Pakistan and many other Muslim countries, through his infamous article

entitled; “Blood Borders”, published in US Armed Forces Journal in July 2006. Bruce Riedel is yet another anti-Pakistan American scholar who has been advisor to four previous presidents of the US. Through his recent article entitled, “Armageddon in Islamabad”, he has drawn a dark picture of the future of Pakistan. He foresees a militant’s rule in Pakistan in the days to come, where all institutions would collapse and it would fuel militancy in all its neighbouring states. Mr. Bruce Riedel while writing this unassumed article has forgotten that, it is the mighty United States which has brought Pakistan to this level of internal instability. The current militancy in the country is of the US sponsored Afghan Jihad and thereafter all actions of US in the post 9/11. Should not it have been the responsibility of the US to share the burden of Pakistan in clearing the mess in Pakistan, rather pointing fingers at its scholars? Similar maps and false speculations based on personal or institutional whimsical theories have more frequently been published in the international media. These are propaganda campaigns designed to confuse the masses and are planned and executed at the behest of all those having larger agendas. Pakistani nation is alive of these unfounded and uncalled for theories and is united to withstand the media and scholarly trials of its self-seeking allies. Following the over ambitious policies of neoconservatives during the Bush Administration, the United States has tracked the agenda of global domination. Though the agenda has been a permanent part of US policy after the end of cold war, but became more eye-catching during George W. Bush Presidency which coincided with 9/11. US efforts to reach out everywhere in the world with the intent to dominate has become a reason of decline in its popularity graph among friends and foes alike. At the level of subcontinent, the unrealistic Indo-US Nuclear Deal in violation of NPT and even contradictory to US own laws have been criticised even within US establishment. With the known vertical proliferation record, India has been given the status of natural ally of US just to contain China. India was also exempted from the international laws with respect to NPT under the desire of US. In this context, while showing his reservations, the former US Secretary of State, Colin Powell said about Indo-US Nuclear Deal that, “we also have to protect certain red lines that we have with respect to proliferation.” With respect to the US agenda of global domination through intervention, Professor Hafeez Malik, of the Villanova University USA, writes: “Thirty cases of US’s interventions in Latin America and Caribbean, East Asia, the Middle East and Southern Europe. Some interventions are well known, and some less”. US has indeed become an imperial power at the international level. In the post cold war scenario US foreign policy in South Asia is driven by its long-term collaboration with India, enabling it to act as a counter weight to China. However, US foreign policy specifies for Pakistan, to fight an elongated war against the so-called Taliban and Al-Qaeda. Since the last few years, there have been a realisation by China and Russia that US presence in Afghanistan with some bases in Central Asia are really meant for monitoring their activities. From the megaphone of SCO, the member countries had asked US in 2005 to vacate the bases in Central Asia or at least provide a time table of its departure. After which US had to vacate two bases in Uzbekistan in 2007. However, it still occupies strategically significant bases in Tajikistan and Kirgizstan. During the recent Summit of the SCO, held in Moscow, the member countries had once again shown their reservations with respect to US presence in the Central Asia and its surroundings. Under the strong feeling of annoyance over US future plans in the region, China and Russia have taken great strides to step up trade and put old Cold War rivalries behind them. They have decided to cooperate in all fields and are even conducting military exercises on biannual basis. Although these exercises are not meant for any third country, yet amply exhibit that the regional powers are alive to the situation and extra regional forces may not be tolerated in the region for a longer duration.