

# A Critical Review of Samuel P. Huntington's *Clash of Civilisations* (1993): Is Peace and Security Temporarily Illusive or Permanently Fallacious?

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## Abstract

This review of Samuel P. Huntington's *Clash of Civilisations* (1996), primarily draws on his 1993 article, in *Foreign Affairs*. Its primary research question is: Is peace and security temporarily illusive or permanently fallacious? First providing an overview of Huntington's hypothesis, the article puts forward the argument that it appears that expectations for peace and security is indeed fallacious. This is supported with data drawn from empirical interview research with postgraduate respondents. It then analyses and evaluates the view in the context of a brief overview of aspects of some global wars, specifically peace and security matters in South Africa, the war between Israel and Palestine, and the dynamics of the religio-cultural tensions between Hindu and Islam followers in India. Similarly, it addresses two related complex dynamics in the Western world, e.g. the cultural stresses and strains within the context of the presence of Muslim migrants in Europe and Britain more specifically, and the matter of the supposed 'waning of confidence in 'democracy'', in the western world, especially in the terms of the international Realpolitik of the recent historical and continuing global significance and relevance of the USA.

**Keywords:** Clash of civilisations, World Order, peace and security, religio-cultural wars, Realpolitik, democracy

## Introduction

The idea of ‘peace and security’ stems from an unending quest among human societies to control, if not, obliterate violence altogether. The cumulative impact of violence among human societies over the last three millennia have led to a contemporary problem more than 1.5 billion people on this planet living in violence torn countries. The UN Charter places the responsibility of stopping violence on the United Nations itself, by taking collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace, and border conflicts and wars, which continue in numerous parts of the world. Historically, conflicts and wars have occurred for a range of reasons. It begins from Roman and Greek expansionism more than 2500 years ago, extending into periods of Christian and Islamic expansionism since the advent of both religions, and followed by West European colonialism, with their domineering influence on world politics and economic control. Historical conflicts and wars have set the pace for the brutality that we often witness currently throughout the world. Contemporary wars and conflicts, according to Samuel P. Huntington (1993; 1996), have resurrect-ed the fight for recognition and control of people’s destinies through reinvention of civilizational pasts, emphasizing a determination to modernize without westernizing, or Africanising, Hinduising or Islamising the realpolitik and social fabric of what has become, since European colonialism, ‘national identities’.

Since its publication in 1996, Samuel Huntington’s groundbreaking book on the *Clash of Civilisations and Remaking of the World Order* continues to serve as a seminal account of how the world is rapidly changing along defensive religio-cultural lines. The genesis of this book lies in a shortened essay that Huntington (1993) published in the journal: *Foreign Affairs*. Thirty-one years later, much of what he prophesied is playing out with an accuracy that is revealing about how American hegemony, through its network of support, is being challenged globally. The issues that he raises are about how ancestry, language and religion are now openly in conflict against the current global order. They are about how colonized people lost their identities and right to self-rule over the last 300 years through domination by a handful of countries that have made up and control the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), as well as most of those that make up G7 and G20 nations. Huntington’s article and subsequent book provides a persuasive account of the histories, languages and indigenous patterns of socio-political formations.

Ever since the advent of ships and long-distance sailing, as well as metallurgy and the advancements of weapons, starting from swords, knives, guns and canons, to nuclear missiles, armoured vehicles, ships as aircraft carriers and fighter jets, the world conflicts throughout the world have resurfaced to a point of making the world even more unsafe than previously. These instruments have become weapons of attack and mass destruction, essential for the policies and actions of the people who act either as groups, as nation-states, or as wider regions such as sub-continent or even entire continents. They serve to protect themselves from either internal or external threats for a range of reasons. Most often, it is a fight for territory and what value and natural resources such ground offers. As the world's populations grew and people began migrating and becoming increasingly dependent upon what their newly settled territories had to offer, occupation extended itself to possessively guarded ownership. Migration, protection of national identities, and resurrecting civilisations' narratives have impacted upon 'Peace and security in the world' in ways that turn the phrase into an oxymoron. The challenges lie with how leaders craft their ways through political processes to attain topmost positions in government, albeit within processes that are mostly deemed as 'corrupt'.

A glimpse into how political leaderships evolve and become corrupt will help to contextualise reasons for current uncertainties for peace and security in the world.

### **Contextualising Reasons for the Fallacy of Peace and Security**

In 1997, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) commissioned a working paper on corruption around the world. Tanzi (1998) titled his paper as: *Corruption around the World: Causes, Consequences, Scope and Cures*. Referring to a definition of corruption by Johnson (1997), Tanzi stopped at his mere mention of it as being 'broad', and did not offer one as his own. He interestingly sidestepped mention of countries that are most corrupt and which would top them and why? While he mentions the USSR and its allies, he did not view the American government in a similar vein. But he did mention that the American government was aware of American exporters losing out on contracts because they were not able to pay bribes to governments that were acting against corrupt practices. Late President Richard Nixon's role in the Watergate Scandal for instance, nor the Saudi royal family's leaning on American military for support against their enemies, and amassing trillions of dollars from its oil sales, were absent in his paper.

Historically, settlement patterns emerged in ways that gave rise to social systems that were often a reflection of the local leaderships' impact, dependent upon his/her/their abilities. Leadership is central to the social, economic and political directions that societies or nations take. How they create their internal mechanisms for survival and their external relations to build alliances for trade and stability are reflections of their strategies on at least two levels. First, it is to consolidate personal power and self-enrichment – which enhances their visibility; and second, it is to build identities around capacity that has resonance with the leadership. Leaders are often accepted for their creativity, physical ability, militaristic prowess, and economic capabilities. Their acceptances are underpinned by being accepted as custodians and role models of prevalent religious, philosophical and ideological beliefs that represent both cosmological and super-structural values.

Historically, as populations grew, complexities in societies increased concomitantly. Each area, region and extended territories evolved in terms of technological advancements, population increases, growing needs and a search for markets. At whatever level leaderships hold on to power, the ideas of 'peace and security' is relative to numerous issues that include personal ambition, big business interests and longer-term positions in the context of regional and global politics. In the print media, television news channels, and in the numerous social media platforms, these issues feature through the lenses of varying ideological positions. If it is about the Russian attacks on Ukraine, Vladimir Putin is spoken about as either a warmonger or as one who is standing up and against American gerrymandering in Europe. With reference to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, he is often referred to as a stand-up comedian who has overstretched his ambition to become leader of a country that is Europe's largest wheat producer. His career to make people laugh is a far cry from his ability to fight a war against a self-defense expert, a one-time leading official of the Kremlin and battle-hardened fighter that Putin is.

When centered around American political leadership, it was at a time (the early to mid-2020s) that ex-president Joe Biden was a generally well-meaning politician who lost his direction by trying to improve the image of his son Hunter Biden, an attorney cum businessman. But this has come to naught when popular news desks revealed his 'laptop controversy' that discussed how Hunter Biden's business deals took in around 11 million dollars between 2013 and 2018. But the money was allegedly spent quickly. Investigation into why so much went into Hunter Biden's account revealed that none of his business deals came to any fruition. But more importantly, classified documents were

found in Joe Biden's residence and in his former vice-Presidential office, where they should not have been. The fight against this father and son duo, brought ex-president Donald Trump to the fore in the 2024 American Presidential election a President who is appreciated for ensuring that the USA did not enter into any war during his term of office from 2017 to 2020. Trump however, is despised for his crude, misogynistic, and generally non-charismatic manner of communicating. He promised in his 2024 campaign run, a commitment to ending the Russia-Ukraine war, as well as doing his utmost to end unbridled migration into the USA. In Ukraine's President Zelensky's visit to the USA in September 2024, he met with Donald Trump but not Vice President Kamala Harris, nominated by the Democratic Party to replace initially chosen Joe Biden for the Presidential race in November 2024. This was seen as a plea to Donald Trump to end the war in Ukraine, as he had declared, should he win the American presidential race.

About South Africa, peace and security appeared to be a far-off goal against the poor performances of the African National Congress governments since Nelson Mandela and to a lesser extent, Thabo Mbeki. As rampant corruption began to set in, and service delivery in almost every sector of life in South Africa frustrated economic progress, questions about the future of the country almost inevitably centered upon social responsibility, capacity and competency of the politicians. In this third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, against the background of the country's racial and ethnic diversity, unease and insecurity about their future remains prevalent among the minorities of Whites, Coloureds and Indians. While relative peace continued into the era of a Government of National Unity (GNU) after the general elections of 2024, fears of attacks against racial and ethnic minorities remained prevalent.

## **Methodology**

The issues above dominate narratives and discussions in social gatherings, in the various media platforms, and even in live comedy shows. Social media is keeping people more informed, albeit in a medium that has become equally manipulative in trying sway people's beliefs towards dominant or opposing narratives. This is how interviewees too responded to questions and conversations about peace and security – nationally in South Africa and as they saw it globally. Among twelve selected interviews, done through purposive sampling, candidates had to be knowledgeable about the concepts of peace and security at three levels of understanding. The questions were open ended and

were asked in a way that permitted free flowing conversations around each aspect, which included how people felt about peace and security at an individual level, at community and national levels, and about continental cum global factors connected to them. All of the respondents were graduates: three at first degree levels, five at Master's degree levels and 4 at PhD levels. All were South African males, four of them of Indian Hindu background, four were White Christian background, one was Coloured and Christian (of mixed descent), and three of the Islamic Faith. Each of them talked about peace and security at cultural, ethnic and religious levels. As people who were relatively aware of current global affairs, they were able to extend their views to broader regional and international levels, citing examples of how their identities play a major role in their relationships with people of other backgrounds. Ultimately, all of the twelve interviewees talked about being open to everyone, but were guarded in admitting, with some discomfort, that their social backgrounds inevitably draw them to people of their own particular racial or religious backgrounds. Three of them characterized this social pattern as 'spillovers' from the apartheid era. All of them however, believed that it is a human tendency to socialize mostly among people who have a common ancestry, and who share similar religious or political beliefs and family values.

Information gathered from the interviewees began from the conversations in groups of three or more over a period of time. A conscious effort was made since December 2022 when, in a group-of-four meeting that was more casual than formal, one of them made a statement that encapsulated a common sentiment about South Africa's political and economic woes. He linked them to the problems he was having about emigration and the challenges of violence, war and unemployment all over the world. When a White 62-year old engineer commented that he has nowhere else to go, the Indian accountant replied:

*Show me a place in the world where there aren't any problems of the nature you are mentioning about South Africa? In America people are losing their jobs and houses like never before; in Canada Prime Minister Trudeau is treated as a joke. The unemployment levels there are so high that a friend's daughter who left two years ago to teach Mathematics couldn't find a job because Canada reserves government jobs for mainly White Canadians born in the country. In England the Muslims are declaring Sharia law wherever they can apply it, and Europe continues to paint a grim picture about how they are going to become Islamic if they don't curb Muslim migrants from over-*

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*shadowing them. That entire northern hemisphere is gripped by the Russia-Ukraine war, for which we are paying through fuel price rises and rising cost of living. And in South Africa we have a rogue government that is doing its best to rip the tax payers off in whatever they can steal. As Indians we are now too westernized to want to go back to India. So we too have nowhere else to go.*

Other conversations often narrowed down to such issues about South Africa's national state of affairs, as well as problems of the world. The frequency of them encouraged me to take down notes, and to revise them in order to ascertain the most recurrent patterns. My ideas did not gel together until two of the 12 individual interviewees replied, independently of each other, in virtual carbon copies of each other. The common operative question in one-on-one interviews was:

*When people talk about the disturbances such as the events in Durban in July 2022, the Russian - Ukraine war, the Israeli - Hamas/Palestinian war, Uyghur Muslims in China, ethnic cleansing of Hindu/Sikh/Buddhist/Jain and Christian minorities in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kashmir and Afghanistan, Pakistan's ethnic cleansing of more than a million Afghans, forcing them to return to their homeland, what comes to your mind?*

Their answers were simple but carried with them a depth that will prevail for many more decades ahead as the changing world order is being reshaped through violent confrontations and proxy wars:

*All the common person wants is to live in peace and security wherever they are. Right now the world is in turmoil with countries like the USA, China and Russia taking the lead in creating this uncertainty for us as family people.*

*Most people just want to live in peace and ensure that their jobs and families are secure. The ordinary person is not interested in issues beyond that.*

Peace and security in South Africa were at the forefront of their responses, especially violence related to holdups, carjacking, home invasions, business

robberies, corruption among politicians, lack of service delivery and their failures to address unemployment. The root of South Africa's problems are seen to be located in the issues of the concerns that they raised. Against the structural violence of the past, through the staggered benefits that the four racial categories received (White, Coloured, Indian and African) a common understanding about this translating into racial biases and backlashes were commonly accepted. But there was an implicit understanding among the interviewees that race, ethnicity, religious and linguistic background also have tendencies to manifest through class differences all over the world. Class differences may occur through what is a somewhat natural outcome in situations where high performers in education, business and politics arise to dominate not only in their fields of activity, but also in policy making that creates encrusted layers of privileged classes. This frequently tends to leave the working-class majority behind, keeping them at generally stagnant levels. The differences mentioned above may be exacerbated when multi-cultural societies continue to discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity or language, or when they become hosts to foreign migrants. People from these categories are often relegated to the most marginalized segments of society, left to fill the gaps in the most menial unskilled lowly paid areas of service provision.

A similar principle may apply to the highest performing economies of the world, whose technologies permits advances in military equipment to dominate and control the less powerful countries. The USA has been most visionary in this area since the Second World War (WWII), when their dropping of atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, forced the Japanese not only to surrender, but to abandon their imperialist designs for South-East Asia. This catapulted an already recovering USA from the economic depression of the 1930s, into a position of strength – replacing two of the most powerful countries in Europe: Britain and Germany, who were virtually bankrupt in their war against each other. Like Japan, Germany too was forced to abandon their preoccupation with arms production and the militarization of their societies. Through their losses against Russia and the Allied Forces, led by Britain, and the negativity that Nazism cast upon the entire nation, they curtly swayed away from being a battle-ready nation to one that was determined to rebuild their economic, political and social structures that were inclined to reintegrate into the global community. While Britain reigned among the victors of World War II, its successes were dependent upon 1.2 million soldiers from India, and support from the coffers of the Indian economy. By 1945, when the war was almost over, Britain's reign over the Indian state was also drawing to a close.

Agitation against British rule in India made it untenable for their continuation as a colonizing power. Being dependent upon India for much of its resources and wealth, Britain's withdrawal also implied an open admission to a situation of virtual financial bankruptcy. By the mid-twentieth century colonized countries began following India's example by fighting for their independence too. The latter half of the twentieth century saw to its completion, albeit in terms more favourable to the British and other European colonizing countries, than the decolonized nations.

'Great Britain' has since been increasingly referred to as just 'Britain' or the 'United Kingdom'. They have, since the post WWII period, been a subservient ally to the United States. Their creation however, of the Commonwealth i.e. ex-British colonies, allowed a situation of neo-colonialism to take root. This allowed Britain relatively easy access to the oil reserves in the Middle East, as well as other natural resources and manufacturing infrastructure in their ex-colonies. Colonisers remained major beneficiaries of the wealth creating instruments in their previous colonies, albeit through a pattern of indirect rule. While nations are still fighting for their extrication from this post-colonial form of exploitation, they are also fighting to restore their identities by bringing back respect and popularity for their languages, social customs, religious institutions and practices, and protection of their indigenous knowledge bases. These situations prevail throughout the world, making ex-colonisers the principle perpetrators of conflict and war in the world. It is in this aspect that Samuel Huntington (1993; 1996) remains accurate and convincing.

## **From Cultural Clashes to War**

Huntington's use of the words 'Clash of Civilisations' can be viewed as an understatement of how events unfolded since the early twenty-first century. The USA and the rest of the world was least prepared on 11 September 2001 against the attacks by Islamic fundamentalist group called Al Qaeda, on the beacons of American capitalism: the (in)famous 'twin towers'. The attack occurred in broad daylight on a normal working day, clearly designed to not only inflict maximum impact on working people but also on the American administration. Underpinning this attack was a response from Osama bin Laden, in an interview with ABC reporter, John Millar, published in *ESQUIRE*, 1 February 1999, that reinforces Huntington's statements about the fight against current hegemonic forces being essentially around ancestry, religion and culture:

*The American imposes himself on everyone. Americans accuse our children in Palestine of being terrorists--those children, who have no weapons and have not even reached maturity. At the same time, Americans defend a country, the state of the Jews, that has a policy to destroy the future of these children .... We are sure of our victory against the Americans and the Jews as promised by the Prophet: Judgment day shall not come until the Muslim fights the Jew, where the Jew will hide behind trees and stones, and the tree and the stone will speak and say, 'Muslim, behind me is a Jew. Come and kill him. (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/binladen/who/miller.html>)*

Osama bin Laden's gripe was about the USA's unflinching support for Israel and their control of land and resources, especially oil, in Muslim dominated countries (Telhami 2002; Jones 2012). Hailing from an established family that are close to royalty in Saudi Arabia, their fame is derived from the major contracts that they acquired in the building of roads and highways across the country. While the bin Laden's family remained content with their rise to riches and fame, Osama bin Laden chose to veer towards Wahhabism and adopting the Quran and the Prophet Muhammad's life in a literal sense. His gutsy approach against foreign control of land and resources in Muslim dominated countries won him significant praise and support throughout the Muslim world. On 23 August 1996, three months after he was expelled from Sudan under US pressure, Osama bin Laden issued a declaration of war (*fatwa*) from his hideout in the Hindu Kush mountains of Afghanistan.

*Terrorising you, while you are carrying arms on our land, is a legitimate and morally demanding duty. These youth are different from your soldiers. Your problem will be how to convince your troops to fight, while our problem will be how to restrain our youths to wait for their turn in fighting and in operations. (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/may/02/bin-laden-war-words-quotes#>)*

The rise of 'militant Islam' (Latif 2004) is widely attributed to the zeal that its takers reveal about the lesser importance of life on earth, against an afterlife in the Muslim version of *jannah* (heaven). Reference to 'The last Day' abounds in the Koran and the Hadith, and is taken as literal among those who have

endeared themselves to both these Islamic scriptures. But others among Muslims are vocal about such literal translations, arguing that it is not what the scriptures intend to impart to the followers of Islam. However, varied are the interpretations of Islamic scriptures, opposition to such literal translations only tend to appear when the matter rises to the public's attention. References to wars during the medieval period by Christians against Muslims, especially in their oft cited crusades, provide insight into how long drawn out are the conflicts among the followers of the Abrahamic faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Such references reinforce Huntington's idea of the wars in the twenty-first century having its roots in the civilisational pasts of nation-states. In South Asia too, India's rise as a competitive economic and military power is reclaiming previously captured temples that were converted into mosques. Their justification almost always lies in the scriptural texts and figures that date back to the epic periods that are millennia away from the present.

## **Peace and Security in South Africa**

In South Africa peace and security has become a perennial issue since the post-Thabo Mbeki era. Already a country infamous for its violence and government mismanagement, South Africa steeped even lower into the Foreign Direct Investors (FDI) market. The rise in car jackings, home invasions, bank robberies, degradation of services in every sector of government, government mismanagement and lack of accountability in service delivery finances, has reversed the euphoria that came with the Mandela and Mbeki eras in post-apartheid South Africa. National GDP dropped to a mere one percent, exports and manufacturing has declined to levels previously unknown (notwithstanding the Covid-19 years from March 2020 to April 2022, and restrictive University entrances to Medical Colleges, as well as job opportunities prioritized for the African majority first, have created a situation of reverse discrimination in favour of Africans. Having ushered in a significant level of uncertainty for the future generations upward mobility, the dream of emigration remains what it is. The value of the South African currency has reduced people's opportunities for overseas migration to naught. In the province of KwaZulu-Natal during the month of July in 2022, there arose an exacerbated degree in the loss of faith in post-apartheid government . What started off as a protest against the ex-President Zuma's incarceration in the hinterland town of Mooi River, rapidly spread to the urban, commercial and industrial areas of

Durban. Every possible business that could be accessed was raided – with a freedom brought about by the absence of law enforcement agencies. The absence of both the police and army gave people an opportunity to raid businesses that was unknown in the history of Durban. Residential areas too were being attempted to be raided. But the swift organization by residents themselves into policing forum units, armed with privately owned firearms, helped save most residential areas from wreck and ruin. The working class Indian dominated townships of Chatsworth and Phoenix were tested and tried by mobs of Africans allegedly wanting to break through citizen manned barriers, around which several fights broke out. News about the deaths of several people (all Africans) during this period of unrest led to the arrest of six people of Indian origin, which led to national news reports on a regular basis. They were imprisoned beyond the period of the dictates of the law, and were often discussed about on South African television almost to the point of sentencing them by media. But after more than eighteen months, all of them were released without charges, bar one who died during the period of incarceration.

## **Israel and Palestine**

The fight between the Israelis and Palestinians must be viewed on two levels. The first is that Israel, an area of around 22 145 square kilometers, barely 3 000 square kilometers more than South Africa's Kruger National Park, which stands at 19 455 square kilometers, has a history of acrimony with its Arabian neighbours. Israel is around 350 kilometers long from north to south, and 60 kilometers wide, from east to west. Often referred to as 'Jewish Homeland' or 'Zionist State', Israel's population by religious breakdown is 7.4 million Jews and a little over 2 million Arabs, who are mainly Muslim. Israel occupies a space that is significantly smaller in area in comparison with the countries that surround it. They include Lebanon to the north, with an area size 10 452 square kilometers and a population of more than 5 million people. Egypt lies to the south of Israel, covering 995 450 square kilometers with a population of 47,5 million people. Jordan and Syria are to the east of Israel, 89 342 square kilometers and 185 180 square kilometers, with populations of 11.5 million people and 13.1 million people respectively. Mentioned in the Old Testament as the 'Chosen people':

*For you [Israel] are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth*

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*to be his people, his treasured possession (Deuteronomy 7:6).*

While many who subscribe to the New Testament believe that God's covenant with the Jews have been revoked, The Church at large refutes this claim. They accept the terms laid out in the Bible itself:

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

Israelis were noted for their tenacity to survive as well as their intellectual capacity (Lipartito & Sicilia 2004). They lived both nomadic and sedentary lives. According to Robin and Harris (2021), chroniclers and Byzantine hagiographers provided evidence about Jews dominating in much of the Middle East. From the kingdom of Himyar, whose capital was located in Yemen, the territory that stretched across the Arabian Peninsula, was dominated by Jews. The pre-Islamic scholarly research accepts this as fact, acknowledging that Judaism was introduced to Yemen by an ancient king. The writers noted that the same sources wrote about influential Jewish communities in north-western Arabia. In the pre-Islamic era they were spread throughout the Arabian Peninsula. Since the Roman occupation of Arabia, Jews settled in numerous parts of Arabia. But there were constant conflicts between them and other indigenous populations in Arabia. The advent of Islam radically transformed the political situation in the Middle East, to the point of making the Jews a pariah segment of Middle Eastern population. This sentiment also consolidated in Europe as well, reaching an apex in Hitler's rise to power in Germany (Smilde n.d.).

The second level begins from the time of the consolidation of the modern era and the domination of the Jews in business and industrialisation. The rise and consolidation of industrialisation is as old as Jews themselves as a cultural categorization. But their visibility in global terms became more apparent since the mid-nineteenth century as Europe witnessed numerous Jewish entrepreneurs use their families, their literacy, social networks, and business acumen to overcome their social marginality through tenacity and innovation. Accusations of the Jews dominating business in Germany too and their alleged exclusivism that made them socially insular communities served as the basis for German agitation against them. A similar pattern was alleged

to have prevailed throughout Europe and the North Americas, often leading to studies on Jewish economic history with a clear sense of an antisemitic tinge to it. Such marginalisation of the Jews led to their focus upon the creation of a homeland in the Middle East. As the anti-colonization agitation gained momentum in the 1940s, the British decided to leave the Middle East too. But first they created a Jewish homeland calling it the 'State of Israel' on 15 May 1948. While they were admitted to the United Nations as a country, the Palestinians cried foul because they were stateless. The uproar against this creation led to a popular and widespread agitation against this creation, forcing Muslim nations to rebel against it. While the western nations were ready to rid their populations of the 'Jewish menace'/'Shylock's Shadow', their business interests and managerial skills were somewhat indispensable. They were welcomed as investors and innovative entrepreneurs but hardly as permanent citizens in the European countries and the North Americas. Israelis appreciated that sense of recognition and protection and turned inward to depend upon their innovative acumen to fend off attacks by Muslim opponents beyond their immediate border countries.

Since its creation in 1948, Britain's role thereafter was short-lived. They were accused of abandoning Israel, who had since fought at least 9 wars in: 1948–49, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, 2006, and 2023–present. Numerous key Islamic states have since inverted their anti-Israel stance to support the country: Egypt in 1979, Jordan in 1994, and the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan since 2020. While Saudi Arabia has not recognised Israel overtly, it was alleged to be in a state of readiness by the end of 2023 to do so. The Palestinian attack against Israel is alleged to have been staged to derail that process, considering that Saudi Arabia is the most financially secure state among the 57 Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC). The gruesomeness of the Palestinian attacks against Israeli citizens was resonant of the centuries of gruesomeness for which Islamic expansionism became so infamous. Raping, killing of unarmed civilians, including children and pregnant women, and shouting war-cries of Allah-uh-Akbar remains since the early days of Islamic massacres during their early days of expansionism. History is replete with incidents of such merciless charades wherever Islamic rule was spread. Jews in the Middle East became and remain their targets.

However, changes in attitudes have changed over the years. Saudi Arabia permits Air India to fly over its territory since 2017, a three-hour period that reduces the flying time by at least two hours. This is a welcome gesture since it also reduces the fuel requirement by a significant amount. While Saudi

Arabia has not publicly acknowledged this, the Air India also gained permission to fly over Oman, another alleged anti-Israel country. Officials from there too did not comment on this at that time. But the arrangement served as a significant gesture against the rising influence of Iran in that region. Shi'ite Iran supports HAMAS who supports Jaish-e-Muhammad in Pakistan, an anti-Hindu force that believes its campaign against India will one day turn India into an Islamic state. But Sunni/ Wahabi dominated Saudi Arabia abhors the rise of Iran's technological successes, and holds them responsible for the gruesome 7 October 2023 attack against Israeli civilians, which is blamed upon Iranian help to HAMAS. Since then, a prolonged war has witnessed a severe ruination drive against Palestinian strongholds in Gaza, which was not denounced by numerous important neighbours such as Jordan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia.

### **India: The Hindu - Muslim Debacle**

In this section the central focus for South Asia is India, a country that has suffered waves of invasion that predate the Christian era. The contemporary battles that India (that is Bharat) are rooted in began in an era of an invasion by Alexandra of Macedonia (referred to by western scholars as Alexandra the Great). In those heady days of history India was, to the travelling adventurers, entrepreneurs and warriors on horseback, as well as sea farers and river bound traders, a center of trade, learning and cultural exchanges. For at least 2000 years the geography of the world was continuously redrawn to capture the territories that dominant forces conquered as they ventured towards India. Around 515 BCE, the Indus Valley region was overrun by the Achaemenid Persian Empire. At least two hundred and twenty years later, Alexandra of Macedonia, around 327 BCE, defeated the Persian Achaemenid Empire and attempted to do the same after his entry into India. He was undoubtedly attracted to India's wealth, as well as its spiritual system that taught and still teaches a philosophy about the realization of eternal peace before death of the human body. However, barely two years later Alexandra moved to Babylon, in 325 BCE, where he died around 12 June 523 BCE. The cause of his death remains a mystery, although it allegedly happened after a night of extravagance and alcohol consumption to celebrate a victory over his opponents there. While many historians paint a picture of Alexandra being militarily successful in India, there are two things that count against this depiction. Firstly, Greek presence in India lasted only two years. No colonizing force after having

conquered a territory, ever gave it back to its ruler only because he had put up a good fight, as one of them described his battle against the Indian leader Porus. Secondly, as Robert Holmes's (2021) analysis suggests another unconventional description of Alexandra's tryst with destiny in India. He and his Greek army had restricted himself only to the Indus Valley River, had seen wealth and sophistication there like they had not seen before, and had recognized that India's system of medical care was more sophisticated than their own in Greece. It is therefore odd that Alexandra gave up one of the most prized areas of capture by his forces, but yet continued to capture what is now modern-day Iran and Iraq.

As Islam consolidated after the seventh century, and had its followers enter into numerous battles with Europeans along this trajectory, contact had already been made with India in the 620s BCE. By 629 BCE, Islam's first mosque, the Cheraman Juma Masjid, outside Arabia, was built in Kodungallur, Kerala (Singh 2016) – under very peaceful and accommodating positions. A hundred years later, by the eighth century, violent Islamic invasions of India began. They began with the Arab conquest of Sindh from 711 to 713 CE, followed by the Umayyad Caliphate, led by Muhammad bin Qasim. Qasim left India by 715 CE, after which Indian Kings fought back to regain their lost territory. In the eighth century alone there at least fourteen invasions into the provinces of Sindh, Punjab and Rajasthan. Infamous names to Hindus such as Mahmud Ghazni in the eleventh century, Bhaktiyar Khelji of the twelfth century – all of whom have become infamously known as the Delhi Sultanate. Their brutal misdeeds have carried over into the generations that followed, remaining as divisive relations between Hindus and Muslims up to the present. The Delhi Sultanate was replaced in 1526 by the Mughal Empire, which was one of the three Muslim 'gunpowder empires', including the Ottoman and Safavid Empires. Their rule of the Indian sub-continent continued until the early part of the eighteenth century. At this time, Emperor Akbar proved to be one of the most accommodating among the generally zealous Muslim rulers, who were out to convert Hindus to Islam. Akbar's approach was to be accommodationist through a policy of religious tolerance, to entice Hindus to believe in the fairness of Islamic leadership. Mughal rule reached its zenith by the early 1700s as European domination of India increased, culminating in British domination between 1757 and 1947. It was also seriously challenged in several taxing and costly battles, especially between the Rajput-Mughal wars and the Maratha-Mughal wars. Other battles were on at least two levels. The first is the continuous constriction through imprisonment, of the voices that

challenged British colonial rule, and those who evolved politically to become serious contenders to the British created political party, the Indian National Congress (INC), in which India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru and Mohandas Gandhi were members. Numerous leaders, among whom Subash Chandra Bose and Vinayak Damodar Savarkar appeared to possess far greater appeal than the INC leaders mentioned above (Bose 2011; Sampath 2019).

India's contemporary situation with peace and security on its borders continues from 1947. By the end of British presence in 1947, India's Hindu majority managed to rid themselves of direct foreign rule. But they continue to battle external forces of the North Americas and in Europe, who remain committed to containing India's rise towards becoming a major global economic player with China (Sharma 2014; Albuquerque and de Lima 2024). If left to its own powers, India's steady growth is aimed at equaling the USA and China in their domination of the global economy. But India's current strategy is to exorcise numerous legislative devices that were set into motion by the outgoing British colonists and the political party that they created i.e. the Indian National Congress (INC). Several core issues, according to J Sai Deepak (2021; 2022) continue to constrain extrication of the Hindu majority through constitutional means, via laws that are asphyxiating towards their faster movement in improved economic performance, education and upward mobility. Among them temple is control by state governments. Huge amounts of cash by devotees is usurped by officials for party-political purposes over service delivery for their state's citizens. Minorities such as Muslims, Sikhs and Jains have greater control than the Hindu majority over their own institutions. The education syllabi, according to J Sai Deepak (2021; 2022) are still controlled by anti-national forces, who are committed to providing biased literature of, for instance, historical accounts of battles and victories between invading forces and indigenous armies. This has a direct bearing upon how people build confidence about themselves from past lessons. Americans continue to fund Pakistan's army who in turn fund 'non-state actors' against India through Jammu and Kashmir. The civilian government in Pakistan is subdued by the army and its intelligence wing: Inter State Intelligence (ISI) services. While Canada supports the secessionist Kalistan movement for the breakaway of Punjab province from mainland India, with tacit support from the USA and Britain, they ironically do not enjoy popular support within that province. The Open Society Foundation, supported by billionaire George Soros, openly flaunts his support for the Kalistan movement and anti-national Muslim organisations that challenge the Indian state.

While there is clearly a wide schism between Hindu and Muslim interests in India, the battles are rooted in the historical episodes of Islamically imposed cultural genocide, forced conversions, temple takeovers and looting, women and children abduction, and murdering of men through beheading – creating mounds out of the cut off heads of their captives and put on display in public spaces. Much of this type of behavior was replayed by Palestinian organization Hamas attackers against Israeli civilians on 7 October 2024.

## **Europe, Britain and Muslim Migrants**

The battle between Europeans and Middle Easterners date back to the medieval period when wars between Christians and Muslims were continually fought over centuries. There are claims and counter claims about Islamic forces taking over Christian owned land, followed by European ‘Crusader’ forces fighting back to reclaim those territories. The wars, like always, were brutal and still remembered more than a thousand years later. Islamist forces fought valiantly to curb the spread of Christianity cum European expansionism in the Middle East and the Mediterranean. But the fight continued over the centuries, albeit under changing historical circumstances.

Through their oil companies active in various countries, in cahoots with the Americans over the last hundred years or more, Arabian and the Mediterranean countries remained militant about their presence there. In one of the most destabilizing actions by the British in Iran, for instance, the overthrow of Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh’s government through the joint collaboration of American and British forces, a level of chaos emerged in 1953 that remains unstoppable. Britain built the oil reserve of Abadan, Iran, which was the biggest in the world at that time. Mossadegh’s promise to nationalize it was not acceptable to both Britain and the USA, hence his overthrow, which became widely known as the *28 Mordad coup d’état* (Byrne 2013).

Twenty-first century Britain, and the rest of Europe, are experiencing a significant rise in migration of Muslims from war ravaged Islamic ruled countries, such as Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Sudan. While the intentions were often about filling positions in the both skilled and unskilled sectors in European countries, as communities consolidate in Europe protests and demands for more rights are on a significant increase. In Britain, Muslims are three per cent of the population, but they makeup seventeen percent of their prison population. Much of this has to do with what is infamously called the ‘grooming gangs’ – appropriated by the White far right

political supporters, especially among the British National Party, after the justice system, police services and social workers services have allegedly failed to stem the problem with grooming. The concept 'grooming' is associated with older men befriending younger White British girls for the sake of sexual favours, sex work and drug sales. While it is not restricted to Muslim men, the idea is being used in Britain to mobilise against the perceived rapid increase in Muslim migration into Britain and the perceived threat of increasing areas of sharia governed localities. David Batty's report on Saturday 2 March 2024 in *The Guardian*, retraced the history of anti-Muslim fervor in Europe to the early 2000s. His write-up illustrated how the notion of Muslim majority areas in European cities are becoming no-go areas, in a way that is capturing the imaginations of the majority in that continent. Starting off as a fringe belief and settling into the mindset of mainstream conservative politics instigated by a British Torie politician, Paul Scully – the Member of Parliament for Sutton and Cheam in Greater London – later retracted his claim that Tower Hamlets and Sparkhill were unsafe for non-Muslims to enter. The instigation spread to right wing politicians in the USA, Britain, and other parts of Europe that now believe that there is an existential threat to Western civilization because of Islam. An anti-fascist research organization called '*Hope Not Hate*' did a survey among Tory party members. They found that fifty-two percent of the Tories in Britain subscribed to the country becoming unsafe because of the alleged rising tide of Islamic radicalism.

What Batty's account does not cover however, is the organized attacks by hordes of Sikhs, allegedly funded by Pakistan's intelligence agency Inter-State Services (ISI), against Indians and state institutions such as the High Commissions and Consular General premises in the UK, USA and in Canada. Ironically, none of the Kalistani Sikhs have any inclination towards resettling in an independent Sikh homeland in India, and neither is there a popular movement within India for the creation of an independent Sikh homeland they call 'Kalistan'.

In Germany, France, Belgium, Sweden and Demark there are stark contrasts with countries such as Hungary and Poland. The former set of countries, including, Britain, vacillate between having an open-door policy for migrants as opposed to completely shutting them off, depending upon which ideological segment wins elections and forms the next government. But in the latter two countries a policy of total non-acceptance of Muslim migrants, escaping the violence of their respective Middle Eastern countries, have been imposed. Leaders in Hungary and Poland maintain an obtuse determination to

forbid Muslim migrants' entry into their countries, using incidents of violence, rape and radicalism that challenges both state authority and resources and unemployment as, they claim is happening in other European countries.

In Britain, the Labour Party win July 2024 brought about a complete reversal of the Tory party gerrymandering to stop the inflow of Muslims. This led to widespread attacks on mosques and Muslims when rumour spread after a seventeen-year old school boy whose parents were Ethiopian, stabbed and killed three White girls aged 8 and 9 years old. The rumour was that the perpetrator was Muslim. This led to a violent manifestation against Britain's Muslim population, bringing to the fore increasing pent-up feelings about how Islam is likely to dominate and at some time in the future take over the entire country. This sentiment now abounds in other parts of Europe and Scandinavian countries, often urged on by documentaries such as those produced by journalist cum videographer Tommy Robinson. His documentaries are a scathing attack on Muslims throughout Europe, supported by his overt acceptances of other minorities in Europe, such as Jews, Hindus and Sikhs. Common objections against Muslims include wearing out their Social Welfare budgets, lack of understanding and respect for women, rape, criminal and terrorist links and violent activities, religious intolerance, and wearing of the hijab (women black garments that totally cover face and body), and above all these, is the likelihood of each of their countries, from around fifty years hence, becoming predominantly Muslim and Islamic in rule. With between 5 and 10 percent population estimates in each of these countries, and Muslim women having a significantly higher reproduction rate than the negative reproduction rate of European women, that possibility is remains real. The inverse of these objections lie in counter attacks of European countries supporting Israel and the Zionist ideology, which Muslims claim is inherently Islamophobic.

Unless this issue is resolved, the chances of peace will remain stagnant between Europe and Islamic countries.

## **The USA: Realpolitik and the Waning Confidence in 'Democracy'**

After World War II (WWII) the Americans shifted from the concept of capitalism and coined and built upon a new catch phrase that has become an operative currency in 20<sup>th</sup> century politics: *democracy*. Associated with this concept are persuasive terms such '*freedom of association*' and '*freedom of choice*'. But to what extent have Americans been custodians of these catch

phrases and how have they played out in the world of *realpolitik*? Even at the height of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, the Americans were engaging in espionage activities to deliberately effect regime change in numerous countries throughout the world. Iran, as mentioned above was one such example. Otherwise the USA had a policy of 'Preservation of Acquired Influence' (PAI) to deal with friendly dictators who were losing popular support and therefore hardly likely to be of much value to them. Béliveau's (2023) account of this publicly undeclared policy mentioned three countries and their leaders: Batista in Cuba (1956–1959), Mobutu in Zaire (1990–1991), and Mubarak in Egypt (2011). They had a choice of prolonging support for them or abandoning them to avoid direct engagement against who were considered to be unfriendly forces. As Anastasia Somoza Garcia was losing his grip in Nicaragua, then American President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, made a lasting and revealing statement about himself and American politics of espionage and interference in the sovereignty of independent countries and about whose leadership they do not approve: *'He may be a son of a bitch, but he is our son of a bitch'*.

It was on 28 July 1945 that Roosevelt himself proposed the creation of the United Nations (UN), in the American Senate, to avoid further wars. By 24 October 1945, 29 countries had ratified the Charter of the United Nations. The UN was therefore a creation of the USA, and how it functioned over ever since illustrated a trade of bias in America's favour. Successive Presidents either continued to abandon or support authoritarian leaderships as they felt the circumstances demanded, often disregarding their own rhetoric and foreign policy positions. For instance, abandonment cases surfaced several times under different Presidents: Cuban President Fulgencio Batista in 1959 by Dwight Eisenhower; President Suharto of Indonesia in 1998 by Bill Clinton; and in 2011 Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak by Obama. On the contrary, American Presidents who courted relationships with dictatorial leaders: George H.W. Bush in the case of Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko in 1990–1991, Barack Obama in the case of Bahrain's Hamad bin isa al-Khalifa in 2011, and Donald Trump in the case of Egyptian Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in 2019. All of these leaders had the reputation of extreme dictators, yet continued to receive the support of American Presidents.

However, more than mere support, a plethora of evidence has accumulated over time by journalists and academics about alleged American interference against governments of countries that refused to act as sycophantic cronies. The war was allegedly against 'communism'. Central to these allega-

tions was the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the USA, allegedly assisted by local cartels and politicians. Tim Weiner locates the CIA involvement in narcotics trade to fight against ‘communist governments’ right from its very inception in 1947. In a periodical called ‘COVERT ACTION: INFORMATION BULLETIN’, he began with the caption: ‘CIA and Drugs’. In the first sentence of its Editorial it stated:

*It is clearly appropriate, once again, to underscore the enormity of the sordid role of the CIA in the world of drug trafficking. As we show in this issue, the CIA has been, from its inception, a major source of opium, heroin, and now crack. Revelations that the planes which fly weapons to the anti-Sandanista contras, in Honduras and Costa Rica, returned filled with drugs, may – if they are allowed to be fully explored – yet shock the conscience of the American people, numbed by a decade of equally incredible revelations.*

(<https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP90-00845R000100170001-8.pdf>)

Published in 1987, this issue was only released on 3 June 2010 for public readership. Eighteen other articles followed this Editorial, exposing the clandestine activities of the American administration in developing countries from South America to the Indochina borders. The sentiments in the quoted paragraph above have a resounding resonance in the work by several other writers, including: McCoy (2009) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison having posted his course outline on the web about this challenge (Truong 1987; <https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP90-00845R000100170001-8.pdf> ).

In the internecine wars in Cuba, Nicaragua, Honduras, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iraq and Afghanistan, among others, American weaponry and ground forces brought about more destruction than victories to themselves. The trajectories in the Ukraine war with Russia and the Gaza war between Israel and Hamas (Palestinian) are repetition of the previous American offenses. In the Ukraine war against the Russians, the Ukrainian army are proxies for an American attempt to contain Russia’s rise under Putin. Numerous American intellectuals and researchers have showed up the American double standards practiced ever since WWII. Jeffery Sachs (2024) for instance, provides challenging statements in an article that outlines Putin’s 5-time offer for peace, between 2014 and 2024 with the USA and NATO and for a nuclear free

Ukraine. The initiation for peace talks began with the first version of the Minsk Agreement accepting Putin's offer for peace. But it was broken twice, despite President Vladimir Zelensky's tryst with the USA attempting to silence Russia through a claim that '*It is none of Russia's business if Ukraine becomes a member of NATO and places nuclear weapons within its own territory*'. Zelensky and Putin agreed and exchanged signed papers for Ukraine to be nuclear free and non-aligned to NATO. Even though the United Nations Security Council accepted this agreement, Sachs (2024) noted that:

*U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, following in the tradition of British anti-Russian war-mongering dating back to the Crimean War (1853 – 1956), actually flew to Kiev to warn Zelensky against neutrality and the importance of Ukraine defeating Russia on the battlefield. Since that date, Ukraine has lost around 500 000 dead and is on the ropes on the battlefield.*

The broader, unspoken about aims of the USA, is to dismember and split Russia into three parts, in the same way that the Soviet Union was dismembered. A similar attempt is being made by them with India, through their sponsoring of Pakistan's military and intelligence wings. The aim in India is to use Indian agents within the country to dislodge the popularly elected government and dismember the country under the guise of states being too diverse to belong to a singular union. The Kalistani Movement trying the same for the Punjab Province, in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and gradually in Kerala, with the rise of an illegal Muslim Army gathering strength in that province (Malhotra and Neelakandan 2018; Malhotra and Viswanathan 2022). These are, as Sachs (2024) observed, old tactics that were used by the British during the height of colonialism in the nineteenth century. But the practice still prevails. His reminder is noteworthy, that in 1999 the USA bombed Serbia to relinquish Kosovo, and pressured Sudan to do the same with South Sudan, where large deposits of oil exist. Americans have undoubtedly noted their limitations in battle since the 1950s, especially since they were unable to win any of the wars outright, despite the extensive damage they caused against their 'enemy forces'. Their real aim however, is to clearly hold on to hegemonic control of the global economy through whatever means possible, despite the wreck and ruin they cause wherever they interfere. Finishing wars as outright victors in battles are no longer an objective, especially when they leave affected territories in states of perennial chaos, where quests for power by oppositional

forces become functional to their quest for hegemonic control of the global economy. It is in these kinds of situations that the arsenal of USA's toolkit of rhetoric presenting themselves as global peace-makers and defenders of 'the free world' sets itself into motion, persuasively defending itself through the use of globally important print media, social media and television media outlets.

The USA's alleged involvement in dethroning Bangladesh's Prime Minister in July 2024 is another recent case in point. While there is an outright denial by the USA that it did not have any role in the fall of the Sheik Hasina government in Bangladesh, numerous incidents since mid-2022, especially in the role of the USA High Commissioner to Bangladesh, share resonance with the spirit of Weiner's 1987 publication on the CIA's roles in the *Covert Action Information Bulletin*. As reported in the media, Peter Haas, the American High Commissioner in Bangladesh, was challenged numerous times by the ruling party about the time he spent with members of the opposition party. Ironically, at the fall of Bangladesh's Sheik Hasina government, a Pakistani fundamentalist Sunni group, the Jamaat-e-Islamia, was at the forefront of the protests that unseated the government. These reports implicitly implicated Peter Haas in a way that recalled memories of America's close relationship with the Afghanistan Administration and their scramble for safety in 2022, leaving behind some eighty billion dollars' worth of military equipment. Henceforth, time will unravel whether the alleged request by the Americans to take control over Bangladesh's jurisdiction of St Martin Island is true or not. The purpose for this request was to train citizens of Myanmar in St. Martin island to agitate, and use it as a base to fight against China if ever the need arises. The student protest against the Sheik Hasina government's policy of prolonging the benefits of Bangladesh's veterans of the 1971 war against the Pakistani army, served as an opportune moment to extend the protest against her rule as well. The veteran's family members were also beneficiaries of job reservations and state subsidies. Since she also had most of the opposition party members imprisoned as well, the odds against her were high. After several weeks of protest against these veteran's privileges, the protestors appeared to have turned against her too. Sheik Hasina had to flee to India – the only country at that time that was prepared to grant her asylum. Ironically, the Americans befriended the Chinese to restrict the Japanese during WWII. But the rise of Mao Tse Tung forced the Americans away from China, who chose to lean towards socialist USSR. Once more, as China rises towards the position of super-power, the USA will need all allies, including India and Bangladesh, to contain the Chinese thrust towards sole 'ownership' and control of the South

China Sea. But in the typical colonial style of divide and rule, the USA continues to support Pakistan financially and militarily, as well as supports India militarily through technology collaboration and transfers. Both the latter two countries will continue to fight against each other, while the Americans will continue to play judge and jury about who they think is wrong is right.

## **Conclusion**

Contemporary battles are no longer fought between the worn out Middle Eastern Islamic forces and the post-colonial Europeans. Armies from both areas have tried to hide their hideous crimes against humanity by controlling education systems and literature production for educational purposes. Release of their roles in captured societies are likely to turn large segments of their populations against their very own leaderships. Millions of Muslims are becoming members of 'ex-Muslim Groups', and most of the British no longer classify themselves as Christian. After the bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for instance, the Americans enjoyed a super-power status. However, their clandestine operations in numerous other countries over the last few decades are beginning to force the youth and others to reassess their priorities and loyalty towards their state. A recent survey has shown that the majority of youth no longer trust the American state in international politics. Most of them therefore no longer have that sense of pride in being American. A key reason for this is the greed and misinformation of the Deep State in the affairs of other countries. It is clear that the world is veering towards a multi-polar leadership that refuses to accept the North Americans as eternal forerunners to global politics for the sake of peace and security. American trysts in previous places of battle, such as those recalled above, have besmirched their role as 'leader of the Free World'. While their economic and military might still prevail they no longer have the respect that stood its ground immediately after the Second World War. While China is almost at the stage of super-power status, India is rapidly catching up with both, having transcended the economic performance and military strengths (in several areas) of its last colonial masters: the British. While Jihadists cum Islamists fight against European and American control of their oilfields in the name of Islam, Hindus are reclaiming their religious sites taken over by Muslims during successive brutal invasions over an almost 700-year period. In Africa and among the indigenous populations of the South and North Americas, there are ongoing battles for the resurgence and protection of their languages and indigenous knowledge systems. The fight therefore, as

Huntington avers, is along religio-cultural lines. It is no longer, as he has observed, along political ideological or economic lines alone. Huntington's advocacy that the USA must learn to live with the inevitable reality about a multi-polar world leadership, is persuasive and based on realities they are already confronting. Americans will fight hard and unscrupulously to maintain their hegemonic position, supported by the allies in NATO, and the G7 countries. American hegemony is viewed as unscrupulous because their fight against Iraq was a dubious 'search' for the alleged non-existent 'weapons of mass destruction'. In Ukraine, their army is used as proxies against the Russians. Hence, most of the world will grow tired of their being brow beaten and are very likely clubbing up against them through for instance the BRICS nations. But China and India, the most populous countries in the world, continue in BRICS as acrimonious partners, an oxymoron in itself.

Against this wide background of war and chaos, will a multipolar leadership give rise to the elusive concept of 'peace and security' in the world, or will the concept remain an oxymoron?

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