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The Military Coup of Burkina Faso:

By Abdullah Rehan

Burkina Faso encountered a strategic defeat on September 5, 2023, driven by Wide Hassan Kabore, a high-situating military power. The incense spread out quickly, accomplishing the limitation of President Roch Marc Christian Kabore, Top state pioneer Christophe Dabire, and other government trained professionals. General Kabore legitimized the loss by highlighting clear government disappointments in watching out for inside security concerns and financial dubiousness.



The headway of the disturbed was credited to the help of a social occasion inside the Burkina Faso military. The degree of coordination shown during the takeover proposed a basic game plan. Key military units concurred with General Kabore, drawing in the rapid establishing of force inside the military.

The disturbance was met with quick judgment on a worldwide scale by the African Association, the Gathered Countries, and different countries. The general area is very worried over the unlawful qualification in government. Similarly, sanctions were imposed on Burkina Faso, including monetary and discretionary measures that wanted to pressure the irate supervisors into reestablishing standard inhabitant rule. This solid worldwide reaction featured a pledge to prominence based principles and a dismissal of any endeavors to keep up with power wrongfully.



The non-military people of Burkina Faso responded to the defeat at home with extensive battles that mentioned the return of the ousted government and a well-known organization. Regardless of challenging solid covering from the military, the fights showed the adaptability of everybody against the disintegration of vote based standards.

The repercussions of the unrest has conveyed worries about the long ramifications for Burkina Faso's solidarity and ordinary parts. The defeat tests the rule of law and sacrosanct solicitation and addresses a threat to the progress toward ubiquitous organization. The burden of consents by the worldwide neighborhood is a promise to keep up with the longing of people and fame based principles.

As Burkina Faso wrestles with the consequence of the loss, the world watches with wavering. The overall reaction incorporates the meaning of safeguarding vote based values, while the non military staff fights pressure actually hanging out there to conflict with the sabotaging of their spread out praises. Burkina Faso's future is still in uncertainty as endeavors are made to explore the difficulties presented by the strategic bombshell, pursue a fast re-appearance of non-military faculty rule, and reestablish vote-based organization.

Why the media needs to focus on the positive aspects of Muslims?

In a world increasingly connected by social media, images of different communities play an important role in shaping our thinking. Unfortunately, when it comes to Muslims, the media mostly focuses on the negativity, which leads to misconceptions and misunderstandings. The media should focus on showing the positive aspects of Muslims and promoting understanding, unity and integrity, rather than inciting hatred.

First of all, highlighting the positive aspects of Muslims helps break stereotypes. The media often portrays Muslims in a one-sided way, often associating them with violence or terrorism. This statement fails to acknowledge that the majority of Muslims live peacefully, contribute to their societies, and are successful in many areas. By telling these positive stories, the media can help break down stereotypes and eliminate negative stereotypes.

Also, talking about the advantages of the Muslim community can promote a sense of unity among all citizens. Muslims are an important part of the international community and deserve to be recognized for their great contributions in areas such as science, arts, business and work in society. When the media reports these achievements, it sends a strong message of tolerance and acceptance to both Muslims and non-Muslims.

Furthermore, focusing on the good side of Muslims can help promote peace and understanding around the world. In a world struggling to solve cultural and religious problems, building bridges of understanding and cooperation is vital. Good Muslim journalism can spark dialogue, dismantle divisive “us vs. them” narrative, and promote greater harmony.

Also, showing the good things about Muslims can inspire young people in the Muslim community. When young Muslims see positive role models on social media, they are more likely to aspire to similar success. This will greatly impact their self-confidence and aspirations and will ultimately benefit society by creating a motivated and successful generation.

Consequently, the media must shift attention away from perpetuating negative stereotypes about Muslims in order to highlight their positive contributions to society. This narrative shift will not only eliminate doubts but also promote a sense of unity, understanding and peace in the world. The media can play an important role in promoting a more harmonious and equal world for all by presenting the positive aspects of Muslims.

Unlocking the Complexities: Extremism and Terrorism in the Middle East

Extremism and terrorism inside the Middle East represent a multifaceted mission rooted in a complex blend of historical, political, social, and monetary factors. This place has a history of geopolitical instability stemming from colonial-era borders, authoritarian regimes, and unresolved ethno-religious conflicts. elements together with sectarian tensions, youth unemployment, and the influence of radical interpretations of Islam make a contribution to the appeal of extremist ideologies. The presence of failed states and overseas interventions in addition exacerbates this trouble. Additionally, economic dependency on oil and fuel sales and full-size economic inequality create fertile ground for radicalization. effective counterterrorism efforts require a comprehensive technique addressing those underlying causes and fostering political stability, economic improvement, and social brotherly love.

Extremism and terrorism in the Middle East have deep historic roots, with causes spanning political turmoil, foreign interventions, sectarian tensions, and socio-monetary disparities. The place's history of colonialism, authoritarian regimes, and unresolved conflicts has created fertile ground for radical ideologies to take hold. Sectarian divides among Sunni and Shia Muslims, regularly exacerbated via nearby power struggles, have fueled extremist movements, whilst monetary inequality and a vast kids population going through unemployment have supplied a recruitment pool for extremist enterprises. Overseas interventions and the breakdown of nation institutions in international locations like Iraq and Syria have further exacerbated the trouble, allowing extremist businesses to set up themselves and thrive.

Extremism and terrorism have had profound and a long way-accomplishing influences in the Middle East, inflicting huge human struggles, economic instability, and geopolitical turmoil. These acts of violence have resulted in the loss of infinite lives, the displacement of thousands and thousands, and the destruction of critical infrastructure, mainly in war-ridden international locations like Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. Furthermore, extremism has exacerbated sectarian tensions, weakening social concord and fostering a lifestyle of worry and mistrust. Economically, the place has suffered from decreased overseas investment, harm to vital industries, and the diversion of sources in the direction of safety efforts, impeding improvement and exacerbating unemployment. The presence of extremist groups has additionally drawn in external actors, in addition complicating regional politics and prolonging conflicts. Ultimately, extremism and terrorism continue to be significant boundaries to peace, balance, and development within the Middle East, worrying persisted attention and concerted efforts from regional and international actors.

Addressing extremism and terrorism within the Middle East requires a multifaceted method. This consists of promoting political stability via inclusive governance and war resolution, fostering

economic improvement to mitigate grievances, and investing in education and activity opportunities for the young people. Global cooperation, intelligence sharing, and coordinated efforts to reduce funding and guns to extremist companies are important. Furthermore, addressing the foundation reasons necessitates countering radical ideologies through network engagement, non secular dialogue, and media campaigns that promote tolerance and moderation. Strengthening safety features at the same time as respecting human rights and the rule of law is vital, as is facilitating the repatriation and rehabilitation of overseas fighters. Ultimately, a comprehensive strategy that combines political, monetary, and social factors is crucial to mitigating the complicated problem of extremism and terrorism in the Middle East.

Lastly, the problem affecting the middle east calls for a variety of interests and needs, despite the fact that all international bodies must come collectively to solve this very issue.

By shawaiz cheema

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

Is UN doing enough to prevent Genocide and Mass atrocities

Genocide is a cruel and shameful act of violence aimed at the wholesale destruction of the population of a race, ethnicity, religion or race. It involves arbitrary executions, deportations or other acts of torture, often accompanied by torture, is a serious violation of human rights and is internationally condemned as a crime against humanity.

Mass violence is large-scale, deliberate infliction and harm against a group of people, often resulting in serious injury, suffering, or loss of life. These may include genocide, war, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and other human rights violations.

Killing often stems from racial, religious or ethnic divisions in a community. These distinctions can lead to violence and hatred when used by political leaders or extremist groups.

Assassination is often associated with governments or political parties attempting to consolidate power by eliminating threats or opposition. These regimes often use propaganda and state apparatus to create violence. The process of dehumanizing a particular group is a precursor to genocide. This involves portraying the target group as subhuman or a threat to society, facilitating their criminalization.

The primary cause of mass violence, such as genocide, war, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing, is deep division and racial, religious, or ethnic violence that, when used or aggravated, can lead to violence and serious crime. Governments or leaders who care about power and control of their people's well-being may resort to violent means to stop protests or eliminate threats. The absence of law and political incompetence creates an environment where mass violence can go unpunished because the perpetrators are unlikely to be punished. The absence of an effective international response and the world's failure to respond to early warnings could result in serious crimes continuing or escalating. States often prioritize their own interests rather than the decision to prevent mass crimes. It can be difficult to recognize the signs of an impending murder and take preventative measures. Deciding when to intervene is a challenge for the international community. The principle of state sovereignty may be an obstacle to intervention in genocide because most states refuse to permit foreign intervention in their internal affairs. The UN Security Council is primarily responsible for authorizing intervention, but it can be paralyzed by the veto power of its five permanent members.

Disinformation, propaganda and manipulation of the media can make it difficult to accurately assess and respond to the situation, which can delay or influence the international response. Most murders occur in conflict situations and are often sporadic; This makes it difficult to identify perpetrators and influence them effectively. Humanitarian and peacekeeping operations require significant resources, and financial constraints may hinder the ability to effectively respond to genocide. Evidence of murder can be difficult to produce under the law because it often requires extensive documentation and investigation.

The world faces serious challenges in responding to serious crimes such as genocide, war, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. The state's lack of political will to intervene in a conflict involving serious violence remains a problem. The international community often has difficulty reaching agreement and coordination. The principle of state sovereignty can prevent international intervention in terrorism because governments can counter foreign interference in their internal affairs. Deciding when to intervene to prevent violence is difficult. Humanitarian and peacekeeping operations against mass terrorism require significant resources. Financial constraints may hinder the ability to respond effectively to existing or potential problems.

The United Nations (UN) plays an important role in addressing and preventing genocide and crimes against humanity through a variety of legal instruments, people and the law. The United Nations frequently sends peacekeepers to conflict zones where there is a risk of genocide or mass atrocities. These activities are designed to protect the public, maintain peace, and prevent criminals. The United Nations monitors human rights and reports on conflict and areas of concern. These reports help document and report genocide, ethnic cleansing, and other crimes against humanity. The United Nations has appointed special experts or experts responsible for early warning, conflict prevention and resolution.

The United Nations has established international tribunals such as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to try people responsible for genocide and other crimes. R2P is a principle adopted by the United Nations in 2005 that emphasizes the international responsibility to protect people from genocide, war, ethnic cleansing and terrorism when their governments are unable or unwilling to do so. The United Nations works to resolve conflicts and prevent them from escalating into genocide through efforts and mediation. It often collaborates with regional organizations and partners.

‘Will the Russian Federation make use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine? Why or why not?’

The purpose of this article will be to articulate why there is reason to believe that it is highly likely that the Russian Federation will make use of nuclear force in the conflict in Ukraine.

There are a multitude of factors that lead to this conclusion; Russia’s apparent underperformance in conducting their offensive campaigns, and the need to rejuvenate the threat of deterrence posed by Russia through its nuclear arsenal which has recently been taken increasingly less seriously by the West, due to Moscow’s ever-frequent nuclear sabre-rattling, amongst other factors. The Armed Forces of the Russian Federation have somewhat struggled in trying to successfully achieve their military objectives: be it seizing Kiev, the assassination and replacement of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, or the demilitarisation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Along with this, the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, is facing increasing pressure from Russian nationalist groups due to the wartime failures and the duration of the war, which increases the likelihood multifold that Putin uses a nuclear asset to end the war with haste and that too, on Russia’s terms. If recent history has proved anything, it is that Russia’s status as a great power and its ability to exert dominance is more important to its rulers than the actual sustainability of the cost required to do so therein.

Initial Expectations From the Military Intervention;

The Russian Armed Forces at the onset of the intervention in 2022, were predicted both by Russian and Western forces, to completely trounce all Ukrainian resistance and it was even projected that Kiev could fall within 72 hours of the operation, as per Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S.A, General Mark Milley. It was expected that after this, the Government of Ukraine and the President would either be captured, killed or surrender, thus constituting a formal collapse of any organised resistance against Russia’s military actions and that Ukraine would soon have a newly-formed Russian-aligned ‘puppet government’ at its head.

A Harsh Reality;

This was not to be, as the Ukrainian forces and leadership held their own and managed to keep the Russians mostly at bay, eventually managing to drive them away from the Kiev Front entirely though losing some other cities in the South and East in the process, after which President Putin decided to divert his military’s attention to the Donbas in the East, where it was expected to be easier for the Russians to advance because of their stronger military position there, but as we come back to present-day, Russia is still facing hardship in advancing forward, with the increasing casualties from the conflict not boding well for Russia either. Both Russia and Ukraine are currently bogged down in the East and South, where Russia attempts to defend against a slow-gruelling Ukrainian counter-offensive, withstanding Ukrainian attacks, and currently limited active offensive plans or advances in play on the Eastern and Southern Front, apart from the one heading towards Kupyansk, in the Kharkov Oblast. All this, coupled with the recent Wagner Group Rebellion from amongst Putin’s own

forces, has led to some degree of doubt about Russia's ability to defend its newly-annexed territories against Ukraine, and even possibly win the war. Such a performance has also led to a reduction in Russia's international prestige and that of its armed forces, which are ranked as the second-best in the world after the United States, also stirring up considerations to the fact that whether Russia was even fit to be referred to as a 'great power'. The fact that if Russia was to be on the back end of a Ukrainian counter-offensive and on the road to failure in Ukraine, it is evident that it would indeed resolve the use of nuclear weapons.

This can be evidenced by former Russian President and Deputy Head of Russia's Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev stating :

"Imagine if the offensive, which is backed by NATO, was a success and they tore off a part of our land then we would be forced to use a nuclear weapon according to the rules of a decree from the president of Russia..."

Such a statement clearly proves that Russia would use a nuclear weapon in Ukraine, were it in a situation where things aren't going particularly well for Russia's military, since Russia considers it a step too far to lose control of its newly-annexed regions or more importantly, the Crimean Peninsula, something that Ukraine is looking to accomplish with its military operation, meaning that any sort of loss would incite a Russian nuclear response.

In addition, Vladimir Putin has also previously stated that he will go to any heights and utilise all necessary means to defend Russia's territorial integrity, as proven by this statement (translated):

"...We will defend our land using all forces at our disposal and will do everything we can to protect the security of our people."

The fact that the President of Russia is willing to not only give a statement, but reinforce it many times, that the Russian Federation would go to any lengths to defend its territory and people from outside assailants, justifying it by claiming their sovereignty over the Donbas region just because most of the people living there are ethnic Russians which, clearly exhibits not only a resolve but a preeminent justification to a possible Russian nuclear attack in Ukraine, presently which does seem to be the case, with Ukraine trying to advance past Russia's defensive lines and in the process trying to accomplish a feat which would be unacceptable and vastly humiliating to the Russians such as the capture of Crimea or an advance towards the Azov Sea, which would greatly raise the chances for a nuclear retribution against them by the Russians.

Actions that further prove such a mindset such as openly deploying tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, also highlight that Russia is indeed very much serious about its nuclear ambitions and is trying to send a message from Russia to both NATO and Ukraine, that it has little hesitation and only so many barriers in their resolve to use their nuclear weapons, be it in Ukraine which would be more likely in order to ensure a swift conclusion to the war-effort on Russia's peace terms and a complete decimation of the Ukrainian struggle to resist and hastier integration, saving the lives of Russian soldiers which have been stuck in the frontlines for months and upon whose deaths, pressure would be possibly exerted by the public on Mr

Putin, a situation which he would want to avoid, and in order to give a warning to the West to not come into a conflict to oppose the Russian Federation militarily itself directly.

Russia as a nuclear-power;

The Russian Federation and its predecessor state, the Soviet Union has historically relied upon two major tools of exerting and influencing their hard power, one of which is their conventional military forces, and the other, the vast nuclear arsenal that Russia herself possesses. The armed forces themselves have been used to threaten and keep states that Russia wishes so to control, in check, while the nuclear armada in order to stave off any military response from the United States or its allies. However in present-day, Russia's conventional military prominence is greatly dwarfed by the largest nuclear stockpile in the world and the ability to utilise them anywhere, anytime in any part of the world.

Naturally, Russia has maintained its nuclear arsenal for the same purpose as did the USSR, in order to threaten smaller, less significant states and instead exert its power and dominance. But in a world where Russia no longer has the support of her former-Warsaw Pact allies and where its prime adversary is NATO, which it regards as a threat to Russia's very own existence, and NATO military forces make Russia's military assets look increasingly less effective and competitive, and in a vastly less quantity to their own, Russia has been seeking to rely upon its nuclear assets to do the job of the conventional forces, in order to get its way and prevent attack from any other state.

As far as the Russia-Ukraine conflict is concerned however, it has become somewhat common, especially since the 2023 Ukrainian Kharkov and Kherson counter-offensive, that whenever Russia faces any kind of setback or difficulties in completing their objectives, on the battlefield and off it, prominent Russian leaders such as Dmitry Medvedev, the Vice-Chairman of Russia's National Security Council, Ramzan Kadyrov, the Head of Russia's Chechen Republic, and Sergei Karaganov, the Honorary Chairman of Russia's Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, issue numerous statements that point to Russia threatening to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine in order to prevent a Ukrainian victory.

The issue that arises here firstly, is that Russian officials have used this threat in normalcy which completely erodes the gravity of such a statement being considered as a realistic deterrent by NATO or the West. Moreover, due to the large-scale predicted destruction and the facade of a nuclear weapon free world since 1945, no state realistically believes that any nation, including Russia, would willingly break this 'taboo' on the use of nuclear weapons anymore.

It is pertinent however to note that as a result of Russia's conventional losses on the battlefield, Vladimir Putin may resort to unorthodox weapons- including nuclear weapons in order to further end the war in Ukraine quickly and in doing so possibly fulfil one of his other aims: to revive the deterrence factor of Russia's nuclear legion.

The reason for this would be to ensure that Russia manages to give a proper response to perceived threats from NATO and its allies. Furthermore, by regaining its deterrence power, Russia would be better equipped to maintain the ‘balance of power’ between itself and the West in Europe and deter any potential direct aggression against itself. In addition, it would serve as a show of power to other nations that Russia would be willing to use its nuclear weapons if deemed necessary, besides allowing Russia to retain its status as a major global player especially in the military aspect. Perhaps however, the most important of these reasons could be that Russia would want to rejuvenate its deterrence factor as a result of it nukes, as a strategic move to gain leverage in negotiations for the Russia-Ukraine issue and to ensure their interests and territorial security are protected.

Moreover, evidence such as Russian international affairs expert and former lawmaker Alexey Arbatov’s analysis back in 2000, which called for Russia to “...*enhance its nuclear forces to deter not just nuclear, but also, large-scale conventional attacks...*” also seems to resonate with Mr. Putin’s supposed plans, which some believe he has decided to rely upon in the case of the Ukraine conflict, which would as stated in Arbatov’s paper be, “*a suicidal threat of nuclear escalation [that] could present a credible deterrent against a full-scale, theater-wide conventional aggression — including major ground warfare.*”

This analysis, given nearly 22 years before the Russian operation in Ukraine, still does hold true to much of what Putin intends to and is currently acting upon. Whereas nuclear deterrence would indeed be more effective as a result of such a strategy, it can also be argued that in present-day, the use of a nuclear weapon in the conflict in Ukraine by Russia which looks incredibly likely due to such a strategy, might just avert the threat of a larger conventional or a nuclear confrontation in Europe or elsewhere.

Conclusion;

In conclusion, Russia may be driven to use a nuclear weapon in Ukraine due to several factors. These include reasons such as Russia’s slow progress and increasing weariness because of the Ukrainian counter-offensive, which leads to subsequent factors which do not bode well for Russia including more casualties, a heightened risk of losing territory, as well as Mr Putin falling out of favour amongst the Russian public, and perhaps most importantly, the ruining of Russia’s reputation and international prestige along with its inability to counter Western hegemony and the alleged threat to Russia’s security. It can ultimately be derived that President Putin and the Russian Federation might accede to their desire of nuclear weapons to avert the aforementioned results. However, while Russia may be ‘forced’ to use nuclear weapons, it is also unlikely that it will use it on the entirety of Ukraine in large numbers, due to the fear of NATO, being the biggest military backer of Ukraine, and also having members possessing nuclear weapons, deciding to give a conventional or nuclear response in turn and secondly, the threat of nuclear fallout reaching the territory of the Russian Federation.

The Rwandan genocide that unfolded in 1994 remains a dark chapter in the history of the United Nations (UN). It is an appalling testimony to the failure of the international community, including the UN, to prevent and respond to a devastating humanitarian crisis. This article delves into the tragic events surrounding the Rwandan genocide, seeks to understand the complex dynamics at play during this period, and analyzes the failures and responses of the UN.

Rwanda, a small East African nation, has long been plagued by ethnic tensions between its Hutu and Tutsi populations, rooted in colonial-era divisions. The conflict escalated in 1990 when the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), composed mainly of Tutsi exiles, invaded Rwanda, leading to civil war. The assassination of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6, 1994 acted as a catalyst for the genocide. Within hours, the country was plunged into chaos and mass killing began.

The initial and perhaps most critical failure of the UN in the Rwandan genocide was its failure to recognize the situation as genocide. UNAMIR, the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda, led by Canadian General Romeo Dallaire, had been sending constant warnings to UN headquarters about the impending massacre. Unfortunately, these pleas largely fell on deaf ears. Another significant failure was the lack of a clear mandate and resources for UNAMIR. The mission was grossly understaffed and ill-equipped to handle the crisis. The failure of the Security Council to provide the necessary resources and strengthen the mission during the escalating crisis further worsened the situation. The decision to withdraw peacekeepers, despite Dallaire's urgent pleas for reinforcements, remains widely criticized for abandoning those in dire need.

Bureaucratic delays within the UN also impeded swift action. Security Council debates over semantics and reluctance to label the situation "genocide" further delayed major intervention, allowing the perpetrators to continue their horrific acts. The global indifference shown by the international community, including many UN member states, has been deeply disturbing. The genocide was largely ignored, with minimal public pressure on governments to intervene.

In terms of responses, UN efforts have been too little, too late. Although the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established to prosecute those responsible for the genocide, these actions failed to prevent mass killings. The belated nature of these efforts was a bitter reminder of the importance of timely and decisive responses.

After the genocide, the UN, together with international partners, tried to contribute to post-genocide reconstruction. Efforts have been made to bring stability to the region, support refugees and assist in the reconciliation and recovery processes in Rwanda.

The Rwandan genocide holds profound lessons that continue to resonate in the global community. It played a key role in the development of the "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P)

principle, emphasizing the responsibility of the international community to prevent genocide and other mass atrocities. The UN adopted this principle in 2005 as a commitment to prevent and respond to such crises. Moreover, the Rwandan genocide underscores the need for early warning mechanisms and rapid action when confronted with the potential for mass atrocities. Delays in decision-making and bureaucratic processes can lead to devastating consequences. International solidarity is paramount; indifference by the global community can be as damaging as inaction. After genocide, efforts must be made to prevent reprisals and support reconstruction and reconciliation processes, an area where the UN can play a key role in post-conflict reconstruction.

In conclusion, the Rwandan genocide is a chilling reminder of the failure of the international community to prevent and respond to mass atrocities. The UN's failings to recognize the genocide, provide resources and act swiftly are still deeply troubling. However, the tragic events in Rwanda have also prompted major reforms, such as the Responsibility to Protect principle, which aims to prevent such horrors in the future. An analysis of the UN's actions and inactions during the Rwandan genocide is essential to understanding the past and creating a more effective and capable international system for the future.

The Steps Taken by the United Nations to counter Women Rights abuses

Introduction

Since its founding in 1945, the United Nations (UN) has been at the forefront of promoting women's rights and gender equality. Over the years, she has taken many steps and initiatives to promote gender equality and empower women around the world. This article examines some of the important steps the United Nations has taken to advance women's rights.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948):

The United Nations' commitment to women's rights began with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 2 of the Declaration clearly states that "Everyone has the right to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion.

All Forms of Discrimination Against Women Convention on the Elimination of Women (CEDAW) (1979):

CEDAW, often referred to as the International Declaration of the Rights of Women Convention, is a comprehensive agreement that addresses gender discrimination in all its dimensions and aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. Over 180 countries have ratified CEDAW, demonstrating global commitment to women's rights.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995):

The Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing was a landmark event for the advancement of women's rights. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action outlined a roadmap for gender equality, addressing critical issues such as women's health, education, economic empowerment, and political participation. It served as a catalyst for change in many countries.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, includes specific goals (SDG 5) aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. These goals encompass a wide range of issues, including ending violence against women, ensuring equal access to education and economic opportunities, and increasing women's participation in decision-making processes.

The UN Women Entity (2010):

In 2010, the UN established UN

Women, an entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women leads and coordinates efforts to achieve gender equality across the UN system and supports countries in implementing policies and programs that benefit women and girls.

Initiatives to Combat Gender-Based Violence:

The UN has launched various campaigns and initiatives to combat gender-based violence, such as the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign and the "Orange the World" initiative during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

The United Nations has taken significant steps to progress women's rights and gender equality on a global scale. From important documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to specific projects and organizations dedicated to women's rights, the United Nations continues to work for a world where women and girls can enjoy their human rights and contribute to society on an equal basis with men. Despite progress, challenges remain and the United Nations' commitment to women's rights remains as strong as ever.

UN Sanctions and their Impact on the Yemeni Civil War: Exploring the Humanitarian Consequences

Yemen's civil war, which has been ongoing since 2014, has caused one of the world's most serious humanitarian crises. In the midst of this conflict, the United Nations (UN) imposed sanctions to pressure the warring parties to seek a peaceful solution. However, these sanctions have inadvertently exacerbated the suffering of Yemen's civilian population. This article examines the impact of UN sanctions on the Yemeni civil war and the profound humanitarian consequences that have emerged.

Yemen Civil War Background

Yemen's civil war is a complex and multifaceted conflict characterized by a power struggle between the internationally recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and the Iran-backed Houthi rebels. It has caused a humanitarian disaster, with millions of people facing severe food and medicine shortages, displacement and violence.

UN Sanctions: A Diplomatic Tool

The imposition of UN sanctions on Yemen is an attempt to influence the behavior of key actors in the conflict. Sanctions include arms embargoes, asset freezes and travel bans on individuals and entities linked to the Houthi rebels. The intention is to get these actors to engage in peace negotiations and prevent them from accessing the means to prolong the conflict.

Unintended consequences for humanitarian aid

While the sanctions target specific individuals and entities, their implementation has had unintended and serious consequences for humanitarian efforts in Yemen.

Hindering humanitarian access: Sanctions have made it difficult for humanitarian organizations to access the areas most in need. These restrictions on aid delivery prevent the flow of essential supplies, including food, medicine and clean water, to vulnerable populations.

Economic Collapse: Sanctions contributed to the collapse of the Yemeni economy, leading to hyperinflation and widespread unemployment. This economic devastation, in turn, reduced the civilian population's ability to purchase basic necessities.

Shortfalls in Humanitarian Funding: The worsening economic situation, exacerbated by sanctions, has also resulted in reduced funding for humanitarian programs. Donor countries are

less willing to provide financial aid when they perceive a lack of aid effectiveness due to sanctions-related obstacles.

Increased Suffering: The impact on civilians was devastating. Millions of Yemenis face the constant threat of starvation as food prices rise and basic services crumble. Sanctions have played a role in the widespread suffering we have witnessed in Yemen, with rates of malnutrition and disease reaching alarming levels.

Risk of Famine: The cumulative effects of sanctions and war have put Yemen on the brink of a devastating famine. Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of severe malnutrition and many have lost their lives as a result.

Sanctions and Civilian Harm Mitigation Efforts

The humanitarian consequences of UN sanctions against Yemen have raised considerable concerns and prompted international actors to address the issue.

Humanitarian exemptions: The UN has tried to introduce exemptions under sanctions regimes to ensure that basic humanitarian aid reaches the people who need it most. These exemptions are aimed at facilitating the provision of life-saving assistance.

Diplomatic Initiatives: International diplomatic efforts, including peace talks and negotiations, have sought to mitigate the impact of sanctions on the civilian population by promoting dialogue between warring parties. Ceasefires were brokered, albeit with varying degrees of success.

Donor Support: Donor countries have attempted to address funding gaps by providing financial support to humanitarian organizations operating in Yemen. Realizing the dire situation, many increased their contributions to help.

The Way Forward

Mitigating the humanitarian consequences of UN sanctions in Yemen is an urgent priority. As the conflict rages and civilian suffering worsens, there are several steps the international community can take to address this crisis.

Balancing Diplomacy and Sanctions: The UN and its member states should carefully consider the unintended effects of sanctions on the civilian population. Balancing peace efforts and sanctions enforcement is essential.

Strengthening exemptions: The UN should work to strengthen humanitarian exemptions under sanctions regimes to ensure that relief aid reaches people in need without unnecessary obstacles.

Peacebuilding Efforts: Diplomatic initiatives aimed at resolving the Yemeni civil war must be pursued with vigor. The international community, including regional stakeholders, should continue to pressure the warring parties to engage in meaningful peace talks.

Increased Humanitarian Support: Donor countries and international organizations should commit to providing consistent and adequate funding to support humanitarian efforts in Yemen. Funding shortfalls must be addressed to ease the suffering of the Yemeni people.

In conclusion, although the UN sanctions in Yemen were implemented with the aim of forcing the warring parties to a peaceful solution, they had serious and unintended consequences for the humanitarian situation. The people of Yemen are experiencing a dire crisis, with millions facing food shortages, disease and the imminent threat of famine. Addressing the humanitarian consequences of sanctions is not only a moral imperative, but also of fundamental importance for achieving peace and stability in the region. The international community must work diligently to strike a balance between diplomatic efforts and sanctions enforcement while prioritizing the welfare of Yemeni civilians.

The United Nations and Its Influence in Resolving the North Korea Nuclear Crisis: A Delicate Diplomatic Dance

In the realm of international politics, few issues have garnered as much attention and concern as the North Korea nuclear crisis. The enigmatic and often unpredictable regime in Pyongyang has long been engaged in a tumultuous relationship with the world, fueled by its relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons. In the midst of this precarious situation, the United Nations has emerged as a crucial player in the delicate diplomatic dance to address and ultimately resolve this crisis. In this 850-word article, we will delve into the intricate dynamics of the North Korea nuclear crisis and the pivotal role played by the United Nations in finding a peaceful solution.

The North Korea Nuclear Crisis: A Complex Quandary

The North Korea nuclear crisis is far from a simple challenge. Rooted in decades of historical, political, and security complexities, the situation is a volatile mix of tensions, diplomacy, and nuclear ambitions. The division of the Korean Peninsula following World War II and the subsequent Korean War in the early 1950s have left deep scars and unresolved hostilities. The Kim dynasty's regime in North Korea has proven to be both reclusive and unpredictable, with its quest for nuclear weapons seen as a means of survival and a bargaining chip on the global stage.

However, it is essential to recognize that the North Korea nuclear crisis is not merely about denuclearization. It is a multifaceted issue that encompasses security concerns, humanitarian challenges, and the threat of nuclear proliferation. The crisis poses a substantial threat not only to the countries in the immediate vicinity but also to global peace and security, as evidenced by North Korea's frequent missile tests and its ongoing nuclear weapon development programs.

The United Nations' Role in the Diplomatic Dance

At the heart of this intricate diplomatic dance lies the United Nations, a formidable international organisation founded in 1945, committed to maintaining peace, fostering global cooperation, and upholding human rights. The United Nations plays a multifaceted and vital role in addressing the North Korea nuclear crisis.

One of the United Nations' primary instruments in dealing with this crisis has been the imposition of sanctions through its Security Council. These sanctions are designed to curtail North Korea's nuclear program and restrict its access to international trade and financing. While sanctions have had an undeniable impact, they have not succeeded in completely halting the regime's nuclear ambitions. North Korea has displayed remarkable resilience in evading sanctions and utilising illicit networks to circumvent international scrutiny.

Moreover, the United Nations has consistently called for dialogue and peaceful negotiations as the preferred means of resolving the crisis. Diplomacy remains the most desirable path toward a solution, emphasising that a military conflict on the Korean Peninsula would be catastrophic for the region and the world. Notably, the Six-Party Talks, which involved North Korea, South Korea, China, Russia, Japan, and the United States, represented a significant diplomatic effort. These talks, however, have faced frequent stalls and breakdowns, underscoring the intricate and deeply rooted nature of the crisis.

The United Nations serves as an impartial mediator in this diplomatic dance, providing a platform for countries to express their concerns, interests, and grievances. It is imperative to understand that North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons is partly driven by perceived security threats and the belief that possessing such weapons serves as a safeguard against external aggression. As a forum for dialogue, the United Nations allows these concerns to be addressed, fostering a more productive atmosphere for negotiation.

Furthermore, the United Nations has engaged in humanitarian efforts in North Korea, providing much-needed aid to alleviate the suffering of the North Korean population. By doing so, the United Nations demonstrates its commitment to the well-being of the people of North Korea, irrespective of the actions of the regime. This stance is essential to maintain the moral high ground and to make it clear that the international community's objective is denuclearization, not the exacerbation of suffering among the North Korean population.

The Diplomatic Dance Partners: Key Players and Their Roles

The effectiveness of the United Nations in resolving the North Korea nuclear crisis hinges on the willingness of key players to participate in the diplomatic process. Two of the most prominent players in this delicate dance are the United States and North Korea. Their relationship has been marked by periods of intense negotiations as well as heightened tensions, and the personal dynamics between their leaders have often played a significant role in shaping the diplomatic process. Notably, the interactions between former President Donald

Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un resulted in historic summits, demonstrating that direct engagement between the two countries is possible but not without obstacles. Regional actors, such as China and South Korea, play pivotal roles in the crisis. China, as North Korea's closest ally, holds significant influence over the regime. Its economic and diplomatic leverage is essential in any effort to bring North Korea to the negotiating table. South Korea, with a deep interest in achieving peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula, serves as an important intermediary in the diplomatic process. In recent years, there have been promising signs of diplomatic engagement between North and South Korea, such as the 2018 inter-Korean summit.

Russia and Japan also have their respective interests in the region that affect the diplomatic dance. Russia has periodically engaged in diplomacy related to North Korea and is a member of the Six-Party Talks. Japan, on the other hand, has concerns about the security implications of North Korea's nuclear program, particularly in light of North Korea's missile tests and its proximity to Japanese territory.

The Road Ahead: Prospects for a Peaceful Resolution

In recent years, there have been positive signs of diplomatic engagement that offer hope for a peaceful resolution to the North Korea nuclear crisis. Inter-Korean talks and summits, combined with a shift in U.S. policy, indicate a willingness to engage with North Korea diplomatically. However, these engagements have been accompanied by challenges and moments of stagnation, underlining the complexities of the diplomatic dance.

In conclusion, the North Korea nuclear crisis represents a multifaceted challenge with historical, political, and security dimensions. The United Nations, through its role in imposing sanctions, promoting dialogue, and providing humanitarian aid, plays a pivotal role in the diplomatic dance. However, the success of the United Nations in resolving this crisis is contingent on the willingness of key players to engage in meaningful diplomacy.

While the path to a peaceful resolution remains arduous, the consequences of inaction are far graver. As global citizens, it is our shared responsibility to support diplomatic efforts and advocate for peaceful dialogue. The North Korea nuclear crisis is a litmus test of our commitment to international peace and security, and the diplomatic dance must continue with patience, determination, and hope for a safer and more secure world.

The UNSC's handling of the Israel-Palestine Conflict ; balancing act or bias?

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a protracted and deeply rooted dispute that has been a subject of intense global attention. The role of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in addressing this conflict has long been a matter of debate, with arguments encompassing claims of bias as well as assertions of the UNSC's role as a balancing act. To understand this complex issue, it is essential to examine the numerical and intricate facts surrounding both perspectives before considering a balanced stance.

Critics argue that the UNSC has demonstrated a consistent bias against Israel. From 1967 to 2021, the UNSC passed a total of 86 resolutions related to the Israel-Palestine conflict, with a significant majority (42 resolutions) being critical of Israeli actions. In contrast, only four resolutions specifically targeted Palestinian actions. This numerical disparity underscores concerns about impartiality and fairness in the UNSC's approach to the conflict.

Another significant point of contention is the frequent exercise of veto power by the United States, a staunch ally of Israel. Over the years, the U.S. has used its veto power more than 40 times to block resolutions critical of Israel. This practice has led to allegations of a double standard in the application of international law and has prompted questions about whether the UNSC is capable of serving as an unbiased arbiter in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Moreover, while the UNSC has occasionally discussed sanctions related to Israeli actions in the occupied territories, critics argue that these measures have often been ineffective. For instance, the continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, widely regarded as a significant obstacle to peace, has faced limited international consequences. This perceived lack of concrete action further fuels accusations of bias.

On the other hand, proponents of the UNSC's role contend that it serves as a critical multilateral platform for addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. This role allows for the diverse perspectives and interests of various nations to be acknowledged and debated. The UNSC has played a pivotal role in facilitating discussions, negotiations, and peace initiatives related to the conflict.

Efforts to promote peace are evident in the UNSC's endorsement of various peace initiatives, such as the Oslo Accords and the Quartet on the Middle East. These

endorsements demonstrate the UNSC's commitment to fostering diplomatic solutions and peaceful resolutions to the conflict. Furthermore, while the United States has used its veto power to protect Israeli interests, there have been instances where UNSC resolutions critical of Israel have been successfully passed. This indicates that the UNSC, while facing allegations of bias, is not entirely one-sided in its approach.

In conclusion, the UNSC's role in the Israel-Palestine conflict is a complex and multifaceted one. While there is numerical evidence of bias in the form of resolutions that predominantly target Israeli actions and the frequent use of the U.S. veto power, the UNSC also serves as a vital platform for dialogue, debate, and the endorsement of peace initiatives. Nevertheless, there is room for improvement in ensuring a more balanced and effective approach to the Israel-Palestine conflict. A reevaluation of the use of the veto power and a stronger commitment to enforcing existing resolutions could contribute to a fairer resolution of this enduring conflict. Continued multilateral efforts involving various stakeholders, including regional powers and civil society, are essential to finding a just and lasting solution to the conflict.

"Media coverage in conflict zones? Censorship or Journalist Safety"

In conflict zones around the world, journalists are often on the front lines of danger and have an important job of reporting the truth to the international community. But reporting in these high-risk environments alone poses a fundamental dilemma: the balance between media freedom, which is often threatened by censorship, and the need to ensure the safety of journalists while they are out doing their job.

From my perspective, one of the fundamental principles of journalism is to provide accurate, unbiased information as well as both sides of a story. In conflict zones, the role of journalists is even more important in uncovering and documenting the often harsh realities of war, human suffering, and the actions of conflicting parties. Some examples include the Palestine-Israel conflict or the Russia-Ukraine War. Censorship and one-sided news or broadcasting can suppress this important obligation and prevent the public from fully understanding the situation. It also impacts the ability of international organizations, policy makers, and humanitarian organisations to respond effectively to crises.

Despite the importance of press freedom, the safety of journalists must always be a non-negotiable priority. Conflict zones are some of the most dangerous places for journalists, with risks such as violence, kidnapping, and even loss of life along with other side effects. Journalists are often deliberately silenced by parties to the conflict in order to control the flow of information to the people. Finding a balance between media freedom and journalist safety is a complex task, often requiring difficult decisions such as self-censorship to reduce risk.

In my opinion, the balance between media freedom and journalist safety is determined not by one or the other, but by a complex interplay of factors that require the attention of multiple stakeholders. Governments, international organisations and media companies must work together to protect press freedom and hold accountable those responsible for attacks on journalists. Meanwhile, journalists and news organisations must implement strict safety protocols, including training, protective equipment and safe communication methods.

To summarise the above mentioned aspects, media coverage of conflict zones is a globally important issue, shining a light on some of the world's most difficult situations. Finding a balance between press freedom and the safety of journalists is an ongoing challenge, requiring international cooperation and collective efforts to protect those who bravely provide vital information in the most dangerous situations. Ultimately, creating this balance is a testament to our shared commitment to a more informed and just world and to protect the people from one-sided perspectives on various conflicts etc.

The United Nations in the Syrian Civil War: A Critical Assessment

Introduction

The Syrian civil war has lasted more than a decade and caused great suffering, killing hundreds of thousands and displacing millions. The conflict tested the limits of international diplomacy and the United Nations' ability to prevent violence and promote peace. In this article, we will examine the role of the United Nations in the Syrian war and examine the strengths and weaknesses of its efforts to resolve the crisis.

Traditional history

The Syrian war, which occurred in 2011, began as a peaceful uprising against the dictatorship of President Bashar al-Assad. However, the government's crackdown on protesters turned the situation into an all-out war. The conflict quickly evolved into a complex web of political, religious and regional interests involving various rebel groups, jihadist groups, actors, the international community and the Syrian government.

UN response: Mixed records

The United Nations responded quickly to the Syrian crisis and the Security Council played a key role in problem-solving efforts. The first mission, the United Nations Monitoring Mission in Syria (UNSMIS), was established in April 2012 to monitor the ongoing conflict. The mission was suspended in August 2012 due to increasing violence.

The failure to build peace in the early stages is a sounding board for the problems the United Nations has faced throughout the crisis. While the United Nations has pushed for negotiations and made unsuccessful attempts, the Syrian government, rebel groups and their external backers have continued to fight, making clear gains.

Security Council Impasse

One of the main problems deep within the UN Security Council is disrupting the UN's operation in Syria. Russia and China, key allies of the Assad regime, have repeatedly vetoed resolutions that would impose sanctions on the Syrian government or authorize the use of force. This situation brought the United Nations into conflict and rendered it unable to use its resolutions.

The Security Council's failure to act shows a flaw in the structure of the United Nations, as the veto power of the five permanent members can cripple the office in situations where they like to

conflict. Although the purpose of the veto is to promote international reconciliation, it has resulted in impunity for those who commit crimes against humanity in cases such as Syria.

Humanitarian Efforts

UN humanitarian agencies have stepped up and played an important role in addressing the negative consequences of the conflict in Syria. Organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Program (WFP) have provided assistance to millions of Syrian refugees in the country and neighboring countries. However, the scale of the crisis is stretching resources to the limit, and many Syrians still lack adequate food, healthcare and shelter.

Some believe the United Nations could do more to get humanitarian aid to nearby areas, as governments and armed opposition often block aid from reaching the weak. Despite United Nations efforts to provide support, lack of access to those in need remains a critical issue.

Peace and conflict negotiations

Over the years, the United Nations has held many peace talks to bring people together for struggle through meeting. The most important of these is the Geneva Convention. Although some progress was made in these negotiations, they were all marred by ongoing violence and a lack of commitment from all parties involved.

In 2015, the United Nations took an interim decision and implemented UN Security Council Resolution 2254, which is a political reform. However, there are many problems in resolving laws, elections and conflicts that require new laws. The Syrian government's opposition to its own interpretation of the decision and continued support from Russia and Iran have hindered progress.

UN War Crimes Investigation

The United Nations has also made efforts to investigate and document war crimes during the conflict in Syria. The task of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry into the Syrian Arab Republic, established by the United Nations Human Rights Council, was to collect evidence and identify those responsible for the atrocity.

Critics have cited the International Court of Justice (ICC), saying these efforts do not provide sufficient accountability as divisions in the Security Council prevent the situation in Syria from being addressed. This led to the discontent of war criminals and increased the credibility of the United Nations.

Conclusion

The United Nations' role in the Syrian civil war has had both successes and failures. Although the organization provides significant humanitarian aid and tries to facilitate peace talks, it cannot keep the conflict within the borders of the Security Council and cannot have influence on the outcome of the conflict. The Syrian crisis has exposed a number of flaws in the structure of the United Nations that could impede effective action, particularly in relation to the veto power of permanent members.

As the conflict continues, the international community should review the United Nations' performance in Syria and work hard to reform the organization, voluntarily fulfilling its responsibility to maintain international peace and security. The Syrian people, who have suffered for years, deserve a positive and responsive response from the United Nations to prevent future events and contribute to peace.

Asia's Economic Evolution: Transitioning Beyond Manufacturing

Zeyad Zeeshan

The phrase “Factory Asia” refers to the manufacturing powerhouses of the continent, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and more recently China. This led to a surge in manufacturing, propelling the unstoppable ascent of Asia. However, their economic model is shifting, which has huge consequences for both Asia and the World.

There is no doubt that Manufacturing would be the greatest contributor to wealth in Asia. It has brought more benefits other than a strong GDP, it has encouraged and solidified the growth of innovation, and productivity growth. The rise is evident by the fact that China had edged out the USA and Germany to be the top global manufacturing order. Similarly, the Republic of Korea has moved from outside the top 10 to rank 5th. Hong Kong, China, and Singapore are also among the top 15 manufacturing exporters. Millions of Asians escaped poverty by making stuff, but can they move past the “Factory Asia Model”?

Wealthier East Asian nations are investing in their neighbors instead of manufacturing, with foreign direct investment growing nearly twice as quickly as Western investments. While Western investments decreased, 59% of foreign direct investment in Asia was owned by Asians in 2021. Between 2015 and 2021, China committed an average of \$5.5 billion per year, compared to Japan's \$4 billion and South Korea's \$2.9 billion. South and South-Eastern countries can expect higher incomes as Asian integration progresses.

Consequently, how are the continental powers investing in themselves? After the global financial crisis of 2008–2009, cross-border banking became widespread in the region. Megabanks from China and Japan have both grown considerably. China's Road and Belt initiative, which is building infrastructure projects in other countries to connect trade between Africa and Europe, serves as an important illustration. Due to rising Asian savings and recent trade ties, China, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, and South Korea have become the top regional investors. Less developed countries like Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, and other places saw investments totaling \$329 billion in 2011. The amount has increased to \$698 billion ten years later.

Despite the US's influence over the World Bank and ADB, Asia's need for aid is being met locally and the region is experiencing significant geopolitical changes. The donations may alter how the Asian donors treat their neighbors. China is portrayed as a great leader through the Road and Belt initiative, particularly with regard to the infrastructure projects in South Asia and South-East

Asia. However, because of some factors, such as promising to build more projects than it could deliver, and the difficulty of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Cambodia in repaying their debts, among others, the poorer nations occasionally favor the Japanese over the Chinese. It has turned into a competition to see who can give the most aid because other nations like South Korea and Singapore have loan policies that are identical to Japan's. They will therefore converge more and more as China maintains its regional hegemony and competition rises.

China's African Engagement: Benevolence or Dominion?

1. Introduction:

In the past decades, China has greatly expanded its sphere of influence. This has been especially prevalent in the African continent through investing in the continent by funding various projects, providing loans and sending chinese construction teams, all to aid African nations. Today, China has a project in every nation within Africa with the only exception being Eswatini. What we must question is their motive. Is this truly being done for the good of the African people or is there something much more sinister at play?

2. History and Background:

In the 1971 vote in the United Nations General Assembly to decide the representative government for China. The United States was the main opposition to the People's Republic of China; essentially, it was the U.S. 's sphere of influence versus the world. 35 African nations including Chad, the C.A.R. and Liberia voted against the People's Republic of China. In 2007 during the vote to condemn the human rights situation in North Korea, everything changed; This was China's sphere of influence versus the world. This time 43 African nations either abstained or voted against alongside China. In the 40 years between these two votes, the entire political landscape of the world had changed and this

Was entirely due to the fact that China has been funding projects in Africa and has been loaning money to nations within that very continent to such an extent that in 2018 China's share in African trade was 18 percent. This began in the 1970s but only became serious in 2000 when the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation was established. Since then, China has continued to fund major projects in Africa which has greatly benefitted the continent's economy.

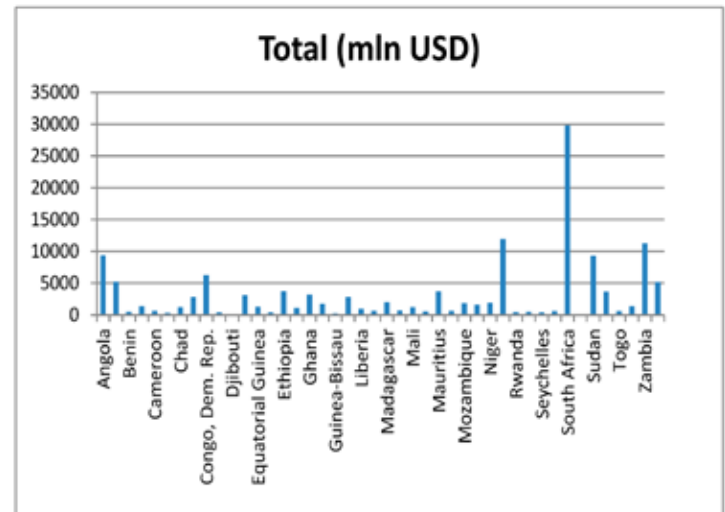


Figure 1: The Impact of Chinese investment on the economies of African nations

3. Major Investments and their Impacts:

3.1 African Union Headquarters:

The A.U headquarters was built in 2012.

However, it was completely funded and built by the Chinese. In 2018, an African IT specialist discovered that there was a secret backdoor to the servers in the building that was connected to servers in Shanghai, China. Through this China had been receiving Emails, personal data and other important confidential information for 6 years. After the building was searched thoroughly, hidden microphones and cameras were discovered through which the Chinese were spying on the headquarters. The creation of this headquarters was a seemingly selfless act by China yet had a hidden motive of extracting sensitive information from the African Union.

3.2 Madaraka Express:

The Madaraka Express is a train that runs between Nairobi and Mombasa and was a **3.6 billion dollar** project. This project was almost entirely funded by a loan taken from China and the train is currently operated by a Chinese company. The objective of this train was to alleviate pressure from a neighboring highway but it hasn't done that whatsoever. It also cuts through a national park which is harmful for the animals and their habitats within the national park. It has also left Kenya with billions of dollars worth of debt towards China.

4. True Intentions:

China is not simply funding these projects out of the goodness of its heart. There are many hidden agendas that China is trying to achieve.

4.1: The Debt Trap:

China has been giving out massive loans of billions of dollars to African nations to fund

their projects. Since these loans are so huge, there is a high chance that the crippling and still developing economies of African nations will be unable to pay back these loans. This would allow China to exert great power over these nations using the debt as leverage. This is known as a **debt trap**. Using the debt traps, China can attempt to take complete control of projects and consequently take control of another nation's sovereign territory. An example of this occurring was in Sri Lanka, where a port was built using Chinese loans. Sri Lanka was unable to pay back the loans it took from China so it was given two options; Either pay back the loans immediately or give China control and access to the port. Since Sri Lanka could not do the former, it was forced to accept the latter. If China is successful in doing this in Africa as well it will truly be able to establish itself as the true global superpower. It also reveals the intent for dominion.

As John Adams said,

“ There are two ways to conquer and enslave a country. One is by the sword. The other is by debt.”

4.2 Exploiting cheap labor:

China is famous for its low skilled and cheap labor. However, as education and the overall economy of China has improved, the labor force has changed to medium-skilled and is not as cheap as before. To combat this China has turned to Africa, the region with the lowest skilled workforce and cheapest labor. In most of the projects in Africa including the aforementioned projects, China sends their own workers and

companies for construction and supervision. These workers treat the locals with utmost disrespect and show open discrimination. The locals are forced to sit separately during breaks and are generally treated harshly. If they do not complete certain tasks within set time constraints, they are severely punished with these punishments ranging from cuts in already extremely low salaries to **physical torture**.

4.3 Ensuring Allies and votes:

China, by investing in these nations, has essentially been buying votes and support. It has been able to completely change the views of African nations with regards to Taiwan. Every single nation in Africa except for Eswatini no longer recognises Taiwan and instead accepts the People's Republic of China as the only rightful government of China. Another proof of the fact that they are essentially buying votes is through empirical evidence presented regarding the number of projects per year within an African nation depending upon its vote in the United Nations. If an African country goes against China in a vote and they recognise Taiwan, they receive an average of 2.7 fewer Chinese infrastructure projects. Conversely, if they overwhelmingly vote in favor of China's interests in the UNGA and they do not recognise Taiwan they receive an average of 1.8 more infrastructure projects.

Conclusion:

China has been investing billions of dollars into Africa through various means. On the surface this appears to simply be aiding the African nations and investing in a growing

economy. However the true intentions of China are much darker. They look to exploit the cheap labor and the loose laws surrounding the treatment of workers there. Additionally they are attempting to buy votes and general support to establish themselves as a lone superpower. The most heinous of all these is attempting to take over the sovereign territory of other nations and gain leverage over them through debt traps. If this continues as is, China might just be able to economically **conquer** Africa.

The Saudi-Iran Conflict

Momin Hashim Khan

C1-A

A longstanding and deeply rooted rivalry in the Middle East, The Saudi-Iran Conflict continues to escalate tensions in the region. The Middle East has been marred by conflicts, and one of the most enduring and complex is the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran which started in 1979. This article delves into the historical background, key aspects, regional consequences, and ongoing developments of this deeply rooted geopolitical struggle.

A Historical Tapestry:

The origins of the Saudi-Iran conflict are intertwined with a web of historical, religious, and regional factors. The Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia and Shiite-majority Iran stand on opposing sides of a sectarian divide within Islam. This religious schism, coupled with the two nations' ambitions for regional leadership, has fueled tension for decades.

The impact of the Saudi-Iran confrontation on proxy conflicts across the Middle East is among its most notable features. Yemen is the main theater of conflict, where Saudi Arabia backs the internationally accepted Yemeni government and Iran backs the Houthi rebels. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted from this proxy war, leaving millions of Yemenis in utter need of assistance.

Lebanon and the Hezbollah Factor:

The rivalry extends its reach to Lebanon, where Hezbollah, a Shiite militant group supported by Iran, holds significant political power. This adds a layer of complexity to regional politics and fuels tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Hezbollah possesses a formidable arsenal of approximately 150,000 rockets and missiles, making it one of the most heavily armed non-state actors globally.

United Nations Diplomatic Efforts:

The United Nations has been actively involved in trying to address the Saudi-Iran conflict:

- **UN Yemen Mediation:** The UN Special Envoy for Yemen has been engaged in negotiations between the warring factions in Yemen, working tirelessly to pave the way for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.
- **Security Council Resolutions:** The UN Security Council has passed several resolutions concerning the conflict. For instance, Resolution 2216 imposes sanctions on Houthi rebels and calls for an immediate ceasefire and political settlement.

- **Diplomatic Appeals:** The UN Secretary-General and various UN bodies have consistently advocated for diplomatic solutions to the tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran. They emphasize the importance of dialogue and negotiation to achieve a peaceful resolution.

Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen:

Yemen's severe humanitarian situation is arguably one of the most heart-wrenching effects of the Saudi-Iran conflict. According to figures from the United Nations, more than 20 million Yemenis require humanitarian aid, over 4 million have been forcefully displaced, and millions are suffering from malnutrition, including children who are on the verge of starvation.

Recent Developments:

Recent occurrences paint a complex picture:

- **Diplomatic Talks:** Iraq and Oman are mediating diplomatic talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran. These discussions are viewed as an important step toward de-escalation and communication in the area. Furthermore, regional occurrences, such as the murder of main Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh on November 27, 2020 and Houthi attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure, are escalating tensions in the area and raising worries about a possible further escalation.

In conclusion, the Saudi-Iran conflict remains an intricate and long-standing issue in the Middle East. Despite ongoing diplomatic endeavors and United Nations involvement, the path to a lasting resolution remains uncertain. The human suffering in the Middle East and the potential for broader regional instability underscore the urgency of finding a peaceful solution to this deeply entrenched rivalry.

The ICJ ruling on Israel and Palestine:

On December 29th 2023, the world was not ready for what was about to come. A shock for the world came when South Africa filed a case in the International Court of Justice(ICJ) against Israel, accusing it of committing ‘genocidal acts’ in Gaza. South Africa filed the case claiming that Israel was in violation of the 1948 Convention on Genocide, which both countries are a party to.

South Africa requested that the ICJ move urgently to prevent Israel from committing further crimes in the strip using “provisional measures” – essentially an emergency order that can be applied even before the main case begins. They argued that provisional measures are necessary “to protect against further, severe and irreparable harm to the rights of the Palestinian people under the Genocide Convention, which continue to be violated with impunity”.

Israel however claimed that the charges were bogus, and lambasted South Africa for bringing the case to the ICJ. President Isaac Herzog even said that the case was “preposterous”. Israel claimed that all their acts were legal, and in self-défense in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. At the same time a number of countries (mainly consisting of OIC nations) backed South Africa and agreed with them.

The case’s ruling was eventually given on the 26th of January 2024, by a 15 member bench. This ruling proved to be highly important for the war between Israel and Palestine. The ruling ordered that Israel must take steps to prevent acts of genocide in Gaza. The interim ruling issued by the court ordered six provisional measures, including for Israel to take all measures to prevent genocidal acts, prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to genocide, and take immediate and effective steps to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza. The ICJ also ordered Israel to preserve evidence of genocide and to submit a report to the court within a month regarding its compliance with the order.



Pictured: Judges that were a part of the 15 member bench which ruled on the case

However, the ICJ did not order a ceasefire, which was heavily criticized internationally. As seen in Resolution ES-10/21 of the UNGA the international community overwhelmingly wanted a ceasefire. Therefore, this decision of the ICJ was scrutinized as a ceasefire would not be implemented in the Israel-Hamas war.



Pictured: Israel at the International Court of Justice at The Hague, Netherlands.

The European Union called for the ruling to be implemented immediately. The European Commission issued a statement stating “Orders of the International Court of Justice are binding on the parties and they must comply with them”. Amnesty International claimed that this ruling was an important step towards peace.

However the ICJ decision alone cannot put an end to the atrocities and devastation Gazans are witnessing. Alarming signs of genocide in Gaza, and Israel’s flagrant disregard for international law highlight the urgent need for effective, unified pressure on Israel to stop its onslaught against Palestinians. An immediate ceasefire by all parties remains essential and – although not ordered by the Court – is the most effective condition to implement the provisional measures and end unprecedented civilian suffering.



Pictured: Pro-Palestinian supporters gather outside The Hague, Netherlands on January 26th 2024

Jobless Blues: Pakistan's Battle Against Unemployment in the 21st Century

In the turbulent landscape of Pakistan's economic challenges, statistics and figures serve as a stark reminder of the magnitude of the joblessness issue. As of 2023, the unemployment rate in Pakistan hovers around 7.4%, reflecting the persistent struggle for meaningful employment opportunities. The youth, constituting a significant demographic segment, grapple with an even higher unemployment rate, with estimates reaching approximately 10.8%. These figures underscore the urgency of addressing the multifaceted nature of unemployment and its potential long-term impact on the nation's socio-economic fabric.

The aftermath of the 2020 lockdown continues to cast a long shadow over the economy, with the inflation rate soaring to 31%. This inflationary pressure places an additional burden on the already marginalized sections of society, exacerbating the challenges of poverty and income inequality. It is imperative to recognize that the joblessness symphony is not an isolated tune but resonates in harmony with broader economic issues, requiring a strategic and integrated approach.

The structural issues within the economy manifest in the mismatch between skills demanded by the job market and those possessed by the workforce. According to recent surveys, a substantial percentage of graduates in Pakistan struggle to secure employment due to the disparity between their qualifications and market needs. Bridging this gap necessitates a radical shift in the education system, aligning curricula with the demands of emerging industries and fostering a culture of continuous learning.

Bureaucratic red tape is a formidable barrier to economic growth and job creation. Streamlining business processes is not merely an administrative concern; it is a catalyst for unlocking the entrepreneurial spirit and promoting a more agile, competitive market. Addressing this issue requires political will and comprehensive reforms to create an environment where businesses can thrive and, in turn, generate employment opportunities.

The intertwining of religious and political factors in the employment landscape demands a nuanced understanding of the socio-political dynamics in Pakistan. Sectarian tensions and political instability can act as deterrents to both local and foreign investments. A recent report indicates that foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan has declined by 45% compared to the previous year, underscoring the urgency of political stability and the imperative need for inclusive policies that foster social cohesion.

In the global economic context, the COVID-19 pandemic has left an indelible mark on employment patterns. Remote work, digitalization, and shifts in consumer behavior have reshaped industries, and Pakistan must adapt to these changes. Embracing technology and innovation, coupled with targeted policies, can position the nation to capitalize on emerging industries, creating a ripple effect of job opportunities.

In conclusion, the symphony of progress in Pakistan must be orchestrated with a profound awareness of the challenges posed by unemployment. To transform the haunting melody of joblessness into a harmonious symphony of prosperity, bold and decisive actions are required. The government, private sector, and civil society must unite to address the root causes, implement comprehensive reforms, and create an environment conducive to sustainable economic growth. The time for change is now, and the stakes are high – failure to act decisively may condemn Pakistan to a prolonged crisis of joblessness. It is a moment that demands not just rhetoric but a resolute commitment to building a future where every citizen contributes to the nation's symphony of success.

Myanmars Troubled History

Every few months there is a breaking news story regarding one riot or another in the conflicted region known as Myanmar or as it was previously called; Burma. So what is exactly behind the constant unrest and political upheaval in this shy state hidden in the western portion of mainland Southeast Asia?



Myanmar's geographical importance is a lot, as it is surrounded by nuclear powers like India and China.

History and Background

According to Eric Badertscher's research paper published in the Salem Press Encyclopedia, 'Burma faced great political and economic instability during the early years of independence and eventually came under the control of General Ne Win, who ruled the country in one form or another from 1962, when he orchestrated a military coup to take power, until 1988, when he was overthrown by another military coup.' Furthermore, the junta leaders established a military government, initially known as the State Law and Order Council (SLORC) and officially changed the country's name to Myanmar. In 1997, the government was renamed the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). The junta refused to accept the results of the 1990 multiparty elections, which gave the victory to Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), and maintained power. Aung San Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest;

she was subsequently elected to parliament in 2012 and later served as the chair of the Committee for Rule of Law and Tranquility. The junta had an extremely poor international reputation due to its strict repression of any political opposition, alleged human rights abuses, and corruption.

How has Myanmar's conflict changed?

Weekly reported deaths from conflict and demonstrations

1. The February coup triggered widespread **demonstrations**, leading to a deadly military crackdown



2. **Armed clashes**, mostly between state forces and local defence groups, have claimed the most lives since



3. In recent weeks, deaths from **remote violence** such as bombings, explosive devices and landmines have increased



Source: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)



A graph made by the British Broadcasting Channel to sum up the ongoing devastating conflict in Myanmar.

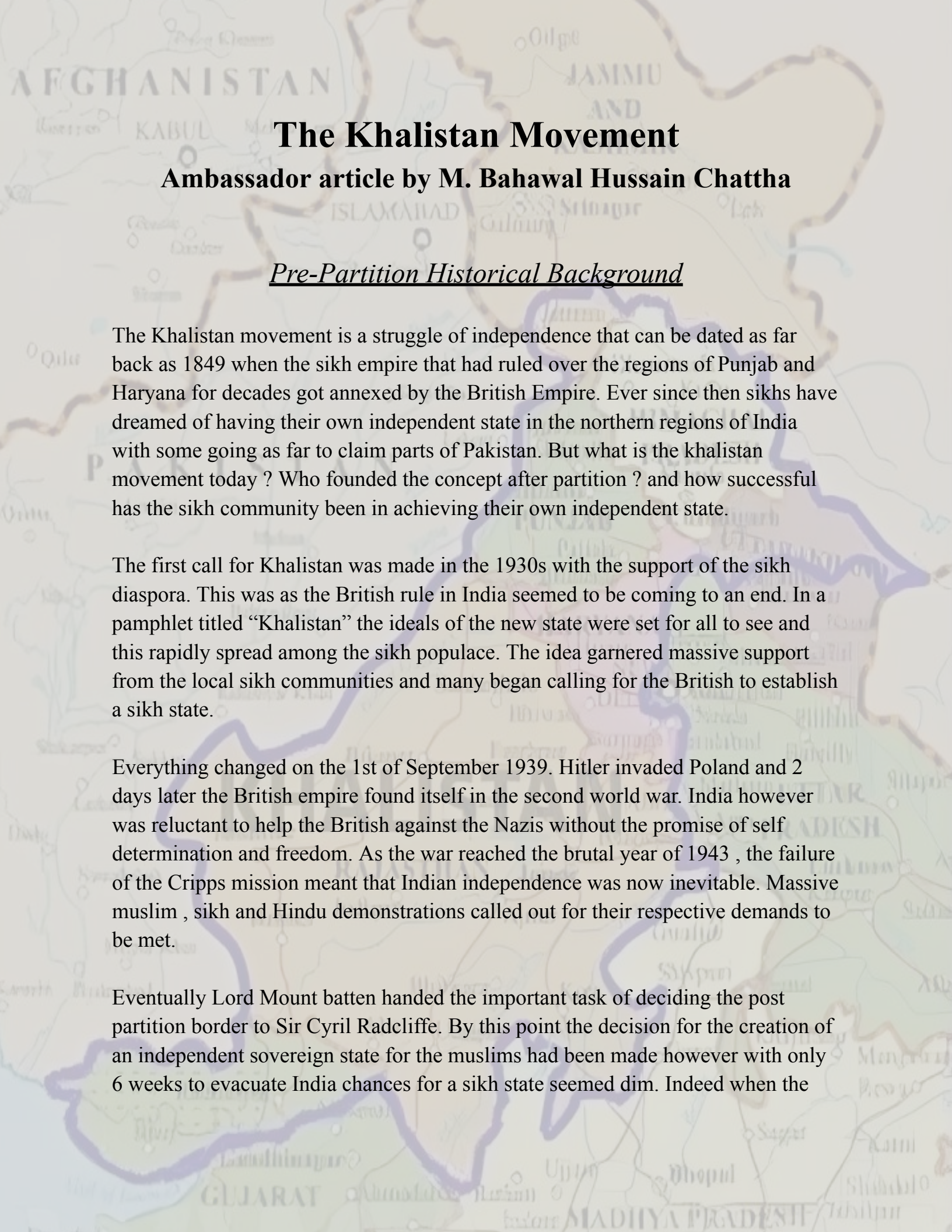
What is going on right now?

Explaining the devastating conflict in a simple phrase, 'It is basically a civil war between the Chin people and the Junta'. Words can often be fooling though, as this is not **just** a conflict. After the military coup in Myanmar in 2021, the Chin ethnic minority took up arms. The Chin people are fighting to defend their territory, their identity, and their democratic principles against the junta. In the mountains in the remote west of Myanmar, a bitter war is raging. The Chin, a primarily Christian minority, still control most of the area after putting up a fierce resistance against the Myanmar military.

This so-called conflict has halted the normalcy of the lives of the people of Myanmar at stake. Although this struggle by the Chin people aims for the ultimate satisfaction and well-being of the people of Myanmar, this civil war has embroiled the broken nation into an unsettling reality with the very fabric of peace hanging by a thin thread.

What lies for Myanmar in the future?

Looking at the ongoing conflict, the prospects of Myanmar surviving as an independent state look bleak as due to the everlasting conflict in the region, foreign powers may intervene and put an end to the havoc in Myanmar. The United Nations may be conducting referendums soon in the area and the country may face a partition, and this comes as a huge sigh of relief for the people of this region as a free and fair referendum is the need of the hour in Myanmar. Political commentators predict that superpowers like the United States may declare 'war on terror' or may send so-called 'peacekeeping' forces to achieve stability in this area. However, it comes without saying that these foreign forces possess ulterior motives, keeping in mind the vast resources present in Myanmar. Furthermore, the people of this region are very strong headed about their political opinions and that is the reason we have seen such a split between the Chin and the Junta forces. Myanmar's future gives a gloomy outlook and only the tapestry of time can tell us what the future holds for its oppressed and deprived people.



The Khalistan Movement

Ambassador article by M. Bahawal Hussain Chattha

Pre-Partition Historical Background

The Khalistan movement is a struggle of independence that can be dated as far back as 1849 when the sikh empire that had ruled over the regions of Punjab and Haryana for decades got annexed by the British Empire. Ever since then sikhs have dreamed of having their own independent state in the northern regions of India with some going as far to claim parts of Pakistan. But what is the khalistan movement today ? Who founded the concept after partition ? and how successful has the sikh community been in achieving their own independent state.

The first call for Khalistan was made in the 1930s with the support of the sikh diaspora. This was as the British rule in India seemed to be coming to an end. In a pamphlet titled “Khalistan” the ideals of the new state were set for all to see and this rapidly spread among the sikh populace. The idea garnered massive support from the local sikh communities and many began calling for the British to establish a sikh state.

Everything changed on the 1st of September 1939. Hitler invaded Poland and 2 days later the British empire found itself in the second world war. India however was reluctant to help the British against the Nazis without the promise of self determination and freedom. As the war reached the brutal year of 1943 , the failure of the Cripps mission meant that Indian independence was now inevitable. Massive muslim , sikh and Hindu demonstrations called out for their respective demands to be met.

Eventually Lord Mount batten handed the important task of deciding the post partition border to Sir Cyril Radcliffe. By this point the decision for the creation of an independent sovereign state for the muslims had been made however with only 6 weeks to evacuate India chances for a sikh state seemed dim. Indeed when the

final map for the future of the subcontinent was revealed , there was no sight of a sikh state. The sikhs could do nothing as there was no time left even to protest the ruling of the british and so the subcontinent split up without a place for the sikhs.

The Post-Partition Movement

After partition the movement was materialized with the “Punjabi Suba Movement” led by Akali dal. This movement was later rebranded to the Khalistan movement in the 1960s. Until the 1960s the call for Khalistan had almost vanished , with few people willing to risk their lives to lead the movement and the sikh public content with their place in Indian society. However around this time massive anti sikh demonstrations took place and the sikhs were branded as sub-human by hindu extremists. The Khalistan movement took speed after the events in 1971 when Bangladesh revolted against Pakistan with the Sikhs in India modeling themselves after the Bengalis who wanted freedom from oppression and now they too wanted their own state.

Davinder Singh Parmar and Jagjit Singh Chohan were two prominent sikhs in favor of Khalistan and became the de facto leaders for the movement especially after the events of 1971. After the Indo-Pak war in 1971, Chauhan visited Pakistan at the invitation of Chaudhry Zahoor Elahi and other leaders. Chauhan visited Pakistan's Nankana Sahib and several historic gurdwaras and used the opportunity to promote the idea of an independent Sikh state. His remarks were widely reported by Pakistani media, and Khalistani's demands attracted the attention of the international community, including India, for the first time. Despite a lack of public support, the term "Khalistan" continued to grow in popularity. According to Chauhan, while talking to Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, he suggested Nankana Sahib as the capital of Khalistan. On October 13, 1971, Chauhan visited the United States at the invitation of Sikh diaspora followers and placed an advertisement in the New York Times declaring the independence of the Sikh country. The promotion allowed him to raise millions of dollars from the diaspora, eventually leading to charges in India of sedition and other crimes related to his separatist activities.

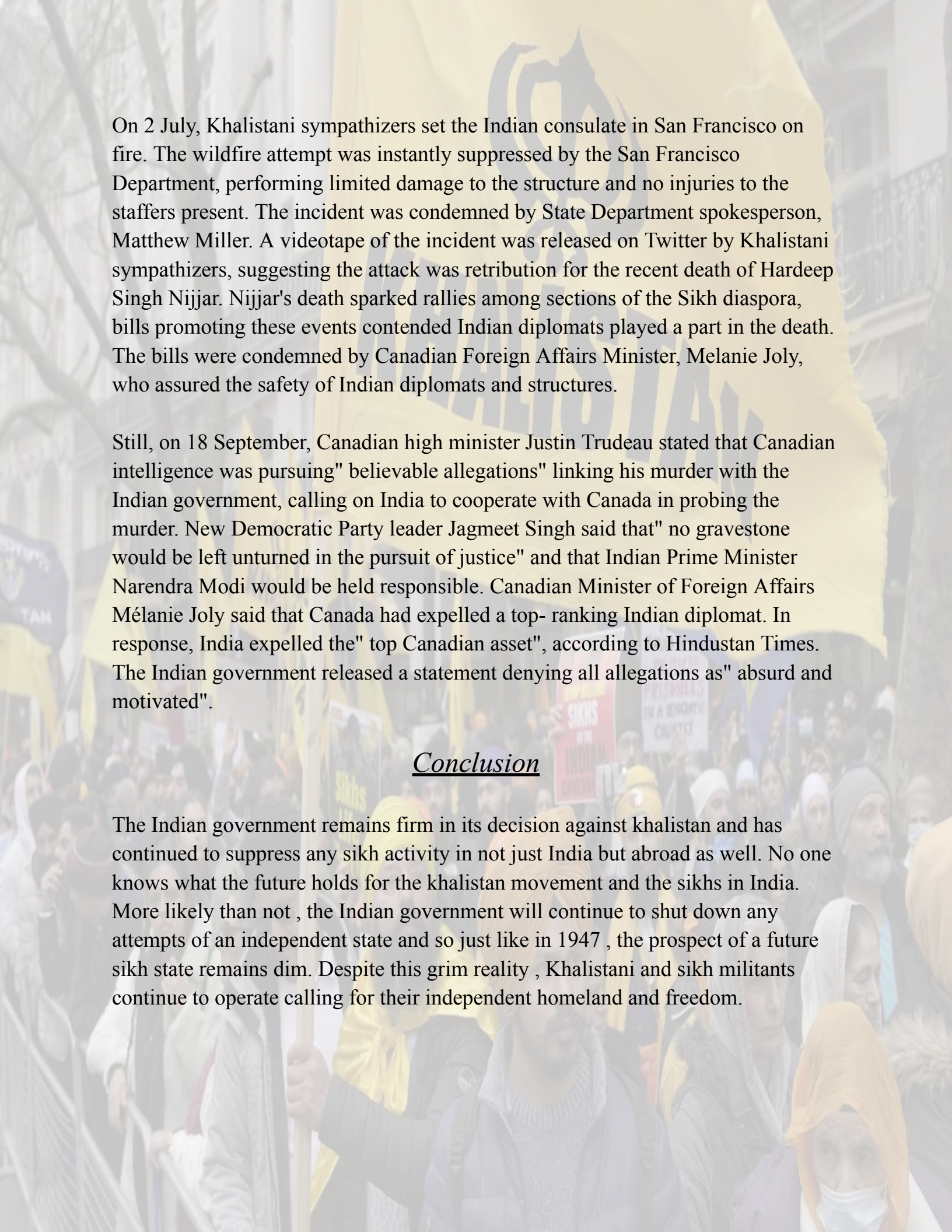
The 80s and 90s saw a huge Indian crackdown on sikh activities. The sikhs were labeled as terrorists, oppressed and seen as beneath the hindu populace. Those suspected to be a part of the khalistan movement were arrested and many sikhs died in shoot outs with indian police while protecting their rights. These deaths were used to further label the sikhs as terrorists. The assassination of Indira Gandhi was conducted by 2 sikhs which helped further anti sikh sentiments among the indian populace. The 90s saw the creation of several sikh militant groups calling for khalistan.

The 21st Century

In August 2022, Amritpal Singh, a stone nominated, radical dominie came to elevation as the head of Waris Punjab de.. He latterly embarked on a crusade and multitudinous sermonizing tenures championing for the creation of Khalistan and for Sikhs to admit investment, imbibe religious austerities, and to duck medicines and other vices. He glorified the use of violence and munitions during public events. In March 2023, Indian authorities initiated a crackdown on Waris Punjab De, professing the association's involvement in attempted murder, attacks on police labor force, and spreading discord in Punjab. He was ultimately arrested on 23 April after lamming and being on the run for 35 days.

Several protests broke out in the wake of his arrest. While numerous occurred without incident, violent attacks were reported in colorful locales. A mob of protesters attacked the Indian consulate in San Francisco, another mob attacked the Indian High Commission office in London and tried to pull down the Indian flag off the pole, broke windows and foisted minor injuries on security staff.

On 18 June 2023, Hardeep Singh Nijjar was shot dead in the parking lot of a Sikh tabernacle in Surrey, British Columbia. Nijjar was allegedly the head of twopro-Khalistan organizations in Canada, and had been indicted by the Indian Government of orchestrating targeted killings in India, for which it unsuccessfully sought his repatriation.



On 2 July, Khalistani sympathizers set the Indian consulate in San Francisco on fire. The wildfire attempt was instantly suppressed by the San Francisco Department, performing limited damage to the structure and no injuries to the staffers present. The incident was condemned by State Department spokesperson, Matthew Miller. A videotape of the incident was released on Twitter by Khalistani sympathizers, suggesting the attack was retribution for the recent death of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Nijjar's death sparked rallies among sections of the Sikh diaspora, bills promoting these events contended Indian diplomats played a part in the death. The bills were condemned by Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister, Melanie Joly, who assured the safety of Indian diplomats and structures.

Still, on 18 September, Canadian high minister Justin Trudeau stated that Canadian intelligence was pursuing "believable allegations" linking his murder with the Indian government, calling on India to cooperate with Canada in probing the murder. New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh said that "no gravestone would be left unturned in the pursuit of justice" and that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be held responsible. Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly said that Canada had expelled a top- ranking Indian diplomat. In response, India expelled the "top Canadian asset", according to Hindustan Times. The Indian government released a statement denying all allegations as "absurd and motivated".

Conclusion

The Indian government remains firm in its decision against khalistan and has continued to suppress any sikh activity in not just India but abroad as well. No one knows what the future holds for the khalistan movement and the sikhs in India. More likely than not , the Indian government will continue to shut down any attempts of an independent state and so just like in 1947 , the prospect of a future sikh state remains dim. Despite this grim reality , Khalistani and sikh militants continue to operate calling for their independent homeland and freedom.