

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL

RAHBORD

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General Information

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ABSTRACTS

Research

Military and Political Implication of Establishing the Missile Shield by the U.S. in Poland and the Czech Republic

Rahman Ghahremanpoor

Despite strong protests from Russia, the United States has insisted on establishing its missile defense system in Czech Republic and Poland. Russia maintains that this would disturb the long-term balance of power in favor of the United States and to detriment of Russia. Russian officials maintain that the American missile shield in Poland and Czech would enable the United States to monitor missile activities in Russia, especially in the western part of that country. In addition interceptor missiles which are to be installed in Poland, will be not only able to destroy missiles launched by Russia en route to the United States over the North Pole, but can also demolish Russia's missile arsenal in case of an unexpected crisis.

On the contrary, the Americans claim that the missile shield established in Europe is not so advanced as to intercept high-speed missiles fired by Russia and is only useful to protect Europe and the United States in the face of missile threats from the Middle East, especially Iran. Russia retorts by arguing that the best place to install a missile shield to confront missile threats from Iran is southern Europe or anywhere around Iran and Moscow would not oppose it. The critics of missile shield maintain that missile power of Iran cannot be considered a seri-

ous threat to Europe or the United States and, basically, Iran is not willing to do that. In the meantime, US Department of Defense's tests for intercepting missile have been mostly unsuccessful.

Keywords: interceptor missiles, missile shield, X-band radar, Poland, Czech, Russia, early warning radar, Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), launch phase, middle phase, final phase, Defense Support Plan (DSP), Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)

Pakistan's Nuclear Security: a Growing Challenge

Esmail Bashari

Pursuant to longstanding rivalry with India and in order to demonstrate its deterrent power against that country, Pakistan carried out its first nuclear test on November 28, 1998, thus becoming a nuclear-weapon state. Although nuclear tests carried out by India and Pakistan elicited negative reactions from big powers at that time, but those reactions were limited to minor sanctions. Despite its concern, the United States did not care much about Pakistan before 9/11. However, the terrorist attacks, whose perpetrators were based in Afghanistan and had close ties to ISI (Pakistan's intelligence agency), greatly startled the American government. On the other hand, empowerment of radical Islamist forces in Pakistan and escalation of domestic crisis in that country further alarmed the west and made security of Pakistan's nuclear facilities a major preoccupation for west. The United States is currently trying to shore up Pakistan's President Parvez Musharraf and help him to establish necessary protective systems to ensure security of that country's nuclear installations. At the same time, the possibility of direct intervention in Pakistan in case of possible overthrow of Musharraf has not been overruled.

Keywords: Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), safe hands, Pakistan Army Intelligence Service, Taliban, Al Qaeda, northern provinces, Parvez Musharraf, nuclear arsenal, security of facilities, strategic plans section, special forces

War against Terrorism and Increasing Suicide Attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan

Ahmad Mehrban

After September 11, 2001, especially subsequent to occupation of Afghanistan, al Qaeda underwent severe blows, but widespread suicide attacks continued because terrorist networks affiliated to this organization rapidly spread through the region. After occupation of Iraq and while Iraqi nationals were not involved in most suicide attacks before occupation, the number of such attacks against military and nonmilitary targets has greatly increased. A major reason for attacking Iraq was inadequacy of occupation of Afghanistan to meet security requirements of the United States. Although occupation of Iraq reduced suicide attacks against US interests, it led to concentration of Jihadist organizations and suicide bombers in Iraq. On the other hand, although there had been no suicide attacks in Afghanistan despite three decades of occupation, after occupation of Iraq, such attacks swept through Afghanistan and the current trend of suicide attacks, both in Iraq and Afghanistan is threatening other Islamic countries and Iraq's neighbors.

Keywords: al Qaeda, Afghanistan, September 11, suicide attacks, institutional theory, behavioral revolution, geopolitical security, nuclear deterrence, suicidal terrorism, Taliban, terrorist family, executive team, media team, Salafi group, NGO, guided bomb, Ayman al-Zawahiri, nuclear weapons, Iraq, preventive measure, neo-Taliban

Evaluating Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) in Light of International Law

Nader Saed

Survival of a society hinges on existence and respect for Law and order (to regulate relations among members of that society). International society also needs some order. However, that order cannot be imposed under pressure from one or more members, but should be accepted by the majority as a collective value. As long as international order has not become a norm, it will be neither sustainable, nor able to take a single course due to differences in the interests of the members of international society. Therefore, negating legal order will be tantamount to negating social order and more than anything else, social order needs a legal order. Meanwhile, some governments are trying to present non-collective definitions of international security, peace and interests of international society in order to shape the norms that govern those issues without taking on board the viewpoints of all members of international society. Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) is one such example.

The present paper will analyze this initiative in the light of international law and will expound its consequences for international peace and security.

Keywords: Proliferation Security Initiative, international law, disarmament, arms control, weapons of mass destruction

Explanation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Policy Periods from the International Relations Theories Perspective

Alireza Rezaei

Foreign policy as most important international behavior output, in all the states in the age of Westphalia sovereignty, was the arena between theory and practice. Because the modernism by making a kind of fundamental dualism between subject and object, make a suitable field for man mind hegemony on nature and separation of theory from practices.

In this processes the value of the foreign policy researchers in choosing the favorites and then try to generalize it, to helpful factor in explanation of foreign policy periods; but this is not a favorite processes in foreign policy. I have to find the answers of this question: can the international relation theories explain the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy periods? So by classifying the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy according the sovereign government from the Iran's revolution periods, it tries to investigate the most important events in each period according to the sovereign discourse, then it works on the strengthens and weaknesses point of the international relations theories(Idealism, Realism, constructivism) according to the specifics time.

Keywords: Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, International Relations Theories, Theory and Reality, Idealism, Realism, constructivism.

Strategies for Environment Sector to Realize the Goals of 20 Year Vision Plan

Saeed Motosadi Zarandi

Sadigheh Babran

Attention to economic, social, cultural, and political aspects of development in every society and coordinating relevant factors is among the most fundamental pillars of planning aimed at achieving sustainable development and goals set by the 20-Year Perspective Plan. Sustainable development of every country depends on optimal use of water, soil, natural resources, as well as manpower capacities which is referred to as protection of environment.

Therefore, while stressing on protection of environment, the Islamic Republic of Iran should take firm steps to achieve the goals of sustainable development, which are also long-term objectives of the 20-Year Perspective Plan.

To do this, studying the experiences of other countries, using of global indices and utilizing advanced methods will help us determine strategic, policymaking, and planning priorities to attain large-scale goals of the sustainable development plan.

Despite the above facts, global researchers and indices show that the country has not been successful in its environmental performance, which is an important index of sustainable development.

This is evidenced by a report produced by Yale University and University of Columbia in cooperation with World Economic Forum and European Union's Joint Research Center, published in Davos in January 2008 as EPI (Environmental Performance Index) 2008. It clearly shows that Iran's ranking among 149 countries had fallen by 14 points from 53rd plan in 2006 to the 67th.

Environmental Performance Index includes achievable goals that improve environmental performance and assesses the degree of success every country has had in realizing those goals. The index, as a quantitative factor in controlling pollution and consequences of water resources management, is a powerful tool to improve environmental management, policy-making, decision-makings and to set environmental strategies.

Although it was not possible to comprehensively analyze that study since it was published only a month ago, the Sustainable Development and Environment Department of the Center for Strategic Research affiliated to the Expediency Council, has carried out another study, themed: "Comparative Study of Environmental Performance of Iran and other Countries and Suitable Strategies to Achieve the 20-Year goals of the vision Plan" which relies on EPI 2006. A summary of results, achievements and strategies presented in that research for environmental sector to achieve the goals of the 20-Year Perspective Plan could be beneficial to Iranian policymakers.

In the present research, comparative and interactive environmental performance of the country in the past and present has been reviewed and compared to performance of other countries where environmental resources are similar to Iran. In this way, status of Iran in this field, its strengths and weaknesses as well as opportunities and threats, has been delineated to pave the way for the realization of the goals of the 20-Year vision Plan.

Keywords: sustainable development, environment, Environmental Performance Index, 20-Year Perspective Plan goals

Challenges Facing the U.N. Peacekeeping Operations in the New Global Security Environment

Seyyed Ali Tabatabaai

Conflicts and wars have been an integral component of domestic and international policies in the course of history. After establishment of modern nation-state, it has tried to reduce conflicts. Since Westphalia Treaty, the world has experienced different approaches to end conflicts and wars. According to a scientific classification, conflict management, conflict resolution, and multidimensional conflict approaches have been used at international level to manage major conflicts in the past few centuries. The present article focuses on challenges resulting from multidimensional conflict management approach adopted in the course of UN peacekeeping missions from historical and analytical angles.

The paper will also review historical background of UN peacekeeping missions as a component of multidimensional conflict management approach. In view of that historical background, peacekeeping missions undertaken by the United States are currently facing major challenges which can be divided in two groups: security challenges as well as cooperation-coordination challenges. According to this division, security challenges are posed by either 1) weak and defeated governments, or 2) terrorism. Security challenges posed by weak or defeated states include delay in nation building process, power vacuum, inequality, and corruption. Ethnic, tribal, and racial discriminations as well as religious bigotry are major challenges resulting from terrorism.

In view of the importance of UN peacekeeping operations, we must identify related challenges and get ready to confront them while coordinating various factors to undertake peacekeeping missions conforming to new international conditions. Such missions will be of utmost importance due to significance of human security.

Keywords: United Nations, peacekeeping operations, conflicts, human security, intractable conflict

A Glance at the Human Rights Situation in the United Arab Emirates

Fardin Kharazi

The United Arab Emirates, like other Persian Gulf littoral states, is grappling with a structural challenge between rapid economic growth and lack of political development which is characterized by violation of international human rights standards. However, it seems that signs of democratic reforms and more respect for human rights are gradually appearing in that country in order to appease international public opinion, attract foreign investments, and achieve sustainable development targets. However, the most important criticism related to human rights violations of UAE government has, thus far, focused on four issues: A) disregard for the rights of immigrant workers; B) restrictions on freedom of expression; C) human smuggling; and D) capital punishment and other forms of physical punishments.

Keywords: UAE government, human rights standards, political development, economic growth, basic human rights documents, Federal National Council, immigrants workers' rights, freedom of expression, human smuggling and other violent judicial punishments, foreign investment

Increasing Role of Israel in Iraq: a Strategy for Expanding Influence

Alireza Khosravi

Although Zionist agents were active in Arabic countries, especially Iraq, through such organizations as Jewish Agency even before establishment of Israel in 1948, and despite the fact that Zionist theoretician, Theodor Herzl, had designated the whole Ottoman Empire (of which Iraq was a small part) as the promised land for the Israeli government and some delegations had met with the Ottoman king, Israel was never officially present in Iraq either before or after its establishment. Only Zionist intelligence agencies were present there under different covers and pursued their goals. This became more pronounced after the birth of Israel and opposition to it by Arabic and Islamic governments, especially after establishment of a unified Arab front led by Gamal Abdel Nasser. Most governments of Iraq were inspired by anti-Zionist Arabic nationalism to show their animosity toward Israel in every possible manner.

Therefore, after the war in Iraq, one of the most important developments discussed at international and regional levels was the role of Israel in that war and its subsequent presence in Iraq.

The strategic void after downfall of Saddam prompted countries which had interests in Iraq to enhance their clout in that country in order to influence future developments to their own benefit and to the detriment of rival states.

Iran and Israel are two most important countries which have vested interests in Iraq.

Keywords: Israel, Zionism, Arabic nationalism, United States, Iraq, Baath party, new Middle East, regional countries, neoconservatives, Kurdistan

The Status of Fighting Terrorism in the U.S. Foreign Policy (2000-2007)

Ali Mokhtari

Status of anti-terrorism policy in foreign policy of the United States and mechanisms thought by that country's officials to confront this phenomenon under President George W. Bush constitute the main subject of the present paper.

While focusing on US foreign policy developments under George W. Bush and subsequent to 9/11 attacks, this paper will also discuss mechanisms adopted by the United States to fight terrorism and confront countries charges with harboring terrorism. In conclusion, a roundup of the whole article will be presented.

Keywords: terrorism, US foreign policy, preemptive war, hegemony

Water Crisis in in Iran and the World

Sadigheh Babran

Nazli Honarbakhsh

March 22 is the world Water Day, which aims to encourage nations seek ways to overcome "water resources management crisis". That crisis means lack of correct laws and a political determination to solve the existing problem regarding world water resources.

A major problem with regard to limited water reserves is increased number of people needing those reserves. Since everybody needs clean, fresh water, it is easy to imagine that future

wars will be over water. During the past 50 years, 37 instances of violence have broken out among countries over water and in all those cases save for seven cases, Middle East has been involved. According to studies carried out by the United Nations, water shortage is an acute problem throughout Middle East.

Although those studies have indicated Iran and Iraq as two countries which are not still grappling with water shortage, if the current downturn in water resources continues, the two countries will be facing the crisis in the near future. Since Iran is located in a region which has been always facing water shortage, studies have indicated that per capita water quota will be below 1,000 cubic meters by 2050.

Therefore, introducing a "global action plan" is necessary to ensure water access for all people. Also, considering public water access as a major component of human rights, formulating national and regional policies and increasing international aid to developing and underdeveloped states along with the said global action plan will be good steps to be taken to overcome this problem.

The present paper will introduce some reliable indexes for determining water crisis while explaining the most important problems currently facing the world and Iran for access to sustainable water resources for different uses. In conclusion, suitable mechanisms for preventing unfavorable social, political, and economic conditions resulting from incorrect management of water resources and non-optimal consumption, which has led to water scarcity, will be presented.

Keywords: Water crisis, water resources management, national policies, global action plan

Israel's Presence in the North of Iraq: Challenges Facing the Islamic Republic of Iran *Alireza Khosravi*

Following victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the country's 30-year relations with Israel were suddenly cut and the Zionist regime not only lost its most important base in the region, but found Iran as its archenemy.

This ideological hostility between Iran and Israel dated back to many years before the Islamic Revolution and the address delivered by Imam Khomeini in June 63 and gradually increased thereafter.

Israel, on the other hand, not only lost its most loyal regional ally after the Islamic Revolution, but was also faced with a major obstacle to achieve its goals. Therefore, Israeli leaders have ever since considered the Islamic Republic of Iran as a major threat to survival of their country.

Intense hostility between the two states in all domestic and foreign affairs caused them to take totally opposite stances on almost all issues. Each country has used every opportunity to reduce regional clout of the other side and boost its own weight on regional developments. The war with Iraq and subsequent downfall of Saddam's regime provided both states with a good opportunity to pursue their goals in Iraq, because Saddam held a common view of Iran and Israel and considered them archenemies of his country. Experts maintain that the Iraq war and downfall of Saddam had two strategic winners; that is, Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran because they got rid of their most important enemy at the lowest cost and were offered with a unique opportunity to enhance their presence in that country.

On the other hand, presence of the United States and pro-Israeli neocons in Iraq and historical grounds for increasing presence of Israel in Iraq's Kurdistan, has provided Tel Aviv with a good chance to not only pursue its political and economic goals there, but also to exert more pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The present paper will focus on Israel's potentials in Iraq while expounding threats facing Iran as a result of Israel's measures in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Keywords: Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, United States, preemptive war, internal environment of Iraq, ideological conflict, Kurdistan, deterrence, balance

Translation

Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone (WMDFZ) in the Middle East: a New Perspective

Hossein Moosavian

Amir Hossein Zamaninia

Translated by Sohrab Soori

Irrespective of the motive and intentions of the Iranian authors of the first United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Middle East as a Zone Free from Nuclear Weapons during the Shah's time in 1974, the concept and the practice of establishing Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zones have now found the logic and security rationale of their own. This essay presents some arguments in favor of five propositions: two about the utility, relevance and challenges of WMDFZ in general, and three rather contentious propositions about WMDFZ in the Middle East in particular. They are:

- 1- The establishment of WMDFZs is a much needed boost in the arm of the NPT, and particularly its pillars of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.
- 2- The general public, civil society groups and policy establishments and governments need constant education, reminder and creative steps to promote the existential need for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- 3- The perception in the Arab world is that the indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995 was legally flawed. As a result, mistrusting the nuclear-weapon states and the West in general and the US and Israel in particular, on regional and global security issues have since further heightened.
- 4- Establishing a WMDFZ in the Middle East has direct bearing on a just peace process in the Arab-Israeli conflict and any progress on WMDFZ in the Middle East could potentially encourage, in a mutually reinforcing fashion, Israel to abandon its intransigence and become more receptive to such process.
- 5- There is a window of opportunity to advance the seemingly utopian idea of NWFZ or WMDFZ in the Middle East in the midst of heightening situation of Iranian nuclear program and lack of any meaningful initiative on Arab-Israeli conflict.