

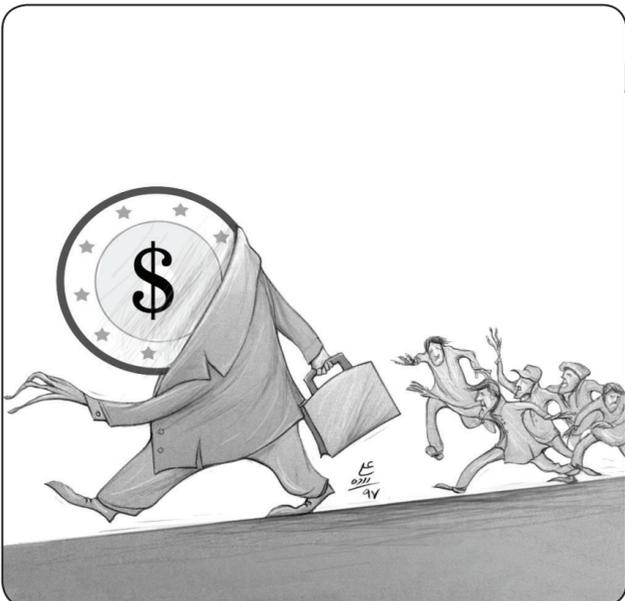
In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



September 02, 2018

Appointment of Zalmay Khalilzad as US Special Envoy For Afghanistan, Though Belated, Is The Right Decision

Doctor Zalmay Khalilzad has been tipped as the United States Special Envoy for Afghanistan by the Trump administration. Dr. Khalilzad has been involved in US policymaking both in Pentagon and in State Department since 1980. He has served as the most senior US official in the Bush administration. President George W. Bush asked Dr. Khalilzad to serve as Counselor to the then Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld in May 2001. He remained on this post for a short span until Condoleezza Rice, the then National Security Advisor, assigned him as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Southwest Asia, Near East, and North African Affairs at the National Security Council. Dr. Khalilzad continued to climb the ladder of ranks until it culminated to his assigned as US Ambassador to Afghanistan (2003 -2005), which followed his assignment as ambassador to Iraq and the United Nations during the administration of George W. Bush. Dr. Khalilzad is seen as most pragmatic diplomat and a strategist who formulated strategies and successfully implemented those strategies in the field to shape desired results. He had been granted US\$ 1 billion by US Congress to be at his prerogative during his stint as US Ambassador to Afghanistan. This gave him necessary means to carry out reconstruction and development programs in Afghanistan. In most of his diplomatic career since 1980s, Dr. Khalilzad has been mostly involved with Afghanistan. During the then USSR invasion of Afghanistan in 1980, Dr. Khalilzad worked with Afghan resistant groups in Pakistan and had endeavored to set these groups free of the claws of Pakistan military and ISI by proposing to establish non-resident US Embassy for Afghanistan in Peshawar in order to avoid siphoning of resources to ISI and Pakistan military and to give free space to Afghan politicians and armed resistant groups to design a viable future for Afghanistan. This was not allowed by Pakistan hence all Afghan resistant groups continued to operate under ISI and Pakistan military, which provided ample opportunity for ISI to give direction to the resistance and cause immense destruction of Afghanistan by planting seeds of religious and sectarian hatred in Afghan resistant groups right from the start! Dr. Khalilzad had to depart Pakistan due to strong opposition by Pakistan military, and continued working in Pentagon in the US. Reaction to this news, which broke last week, has been tremendous and positive across the country. At a time when Afghan Government and its leaders are falling apart due to a number of factors including their inability to match existing challenges to the Afghan State, which include factionalism, political maneuvering, entrenched insurgency, disarray in the ranks of various sensitive Government institutions and lack of sense of responsibility towards the Afghan State and the people of Afghanistan by those sitting in the most senior leadership position in the Government, and mismanagement of ongoing peace negotiation with Taliban insurgents by Government - to mention a few. 'Differences' with, and departure of the most senior figure in the security apparatus of the Government, Mr. Hanif Atmar - National Security Advisor, seems to reveals tip of the iceberg of the extent of insidious problems simmering at leadership level in the Government. In the meantime, advances made by insurgents in diplomatic, political and improved organizational levels during last two years are clear indications that Taliban insurgents are the main benefactor of this disarray in the ranks of, and pathetic situation of Afghan Government. The so called peace process initiated by Afghan Government in February this year has become Pandora's Box! The process that should have involved Afghan Government at all stages of its life span, has allowed for numerous actors including Russia, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Pakistan, Turkey, Indonesia and China - to mention a few - and each of these countries have established separate lines of communication and diplomatic relations with the insurgents - all based on their own competing national interests - which further complicated and slipped this whole so called peace process off the Afghan Government hands. Equally culpable are Afghan Government partners in development and security including United States of America, NATO and its member countries who have big stakes in stabilizing the country, in allowing for present disarray and hotchpotch across political, social, economic and diplomatic spheres in the country. And worst of all, there are no signs of Afghan Government to take remedial steps and bend on fixing these debilitating policy related flaws. In the face of all these issues, people of Afghanistan take it as a good omen for the arrival of Dr. Khalilzad as the US Special Envoy in the country who can use his four decades of experience in Afghan politics, regional involvement and the huge leverage he enjoys at international level to formulate and implement a viable, effective and pragmatic strategy to bring long due calm to this country.



China: More than "the World's Factory"

By Hujjatullah Zia

Almost all provinces and cities of China unfold the story of reform and opening-up began in 1978 by Chinese reformists led by Deng Xiaoping to achieve national rejuvenation and build a moderately prosperous society. Since then, China has lifted 800 million people out of poverty and changed into the world's second largest economy.

The fruit of China's reform and opening-up policy was easily tangible in Tianjin Binhai New Area (TBNA), a Chinese city in Tianjin municipality, where I, along with a number of other journalists, had a tour themed "Rediscovering Tianjin from the View of Foreign Media - Binhai Vision". We visited many industries and technological enterprises and a cultural center.

I was amazed at visiting Efy Technology which focuses on the development of UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) flight control system. This enterprise provides safe and reliable flight operation guarantee in the commercial application of UAV such as agriculture and plant protection, low-altitude logistics, police monitoring, forest fire prevention, geological exploration and aerial surveying and mapping. The industry showcased many types of drones. There was a helicopter-like drone which could fly for four hours and carry 80 kg loads. Adhering to the principle of "Chinese should do well in China's business", Efy is seeking to invest funds and personnel to research and develop commercial drones and strive to become a leading enterprise in the industry.

Moreover, the innovation in a high-tech enterprise Subblue Ocean Science & Technology Co., Ltd. will fill one with awe and surprise. This company, founded in 2013, provides the products and total solution to meet the requirements in field of marine resource development and marine environment monitoring. Its mission is to discover the new underwater world and safeguard the underwater resource exploitation. The products of this enterprise are sold to the US, Australia, Europe, Japan, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. This enterprise has a professional team of 200 employees, including 100 researchers.

The integration of technological industries and cultural centers multiplies the attraction of Tianjin for tourists. In other words, in addition to trade and transportation and technological advancement, Tianjin has its say in cultural issues, too. We visited Binhai Cultural Center, which is located in Tianjin Binhai New District, and plays a key role in improving regional cultural soft power. This cultural center adopts the advanced mode of "market-oriented operation, corporate management and public services". The center integrates management, overall promotion and brand build-

ing and contributes to the development and prosperity of Binhai Culture. Briefing the foreign journalists on August 27, Sun Bin, Director of the District Cyberspace Administration of Binhai New Area, said that after the reform and opening-up, TBNA focuses on the development of the real economy with the cordial care of the Party Central Committee and State Council, the strong leadership of the Tianjin Municipal Party Committee and the people of the whole district.

He maintained, "Real economy is the foundation of the national economy and the basis for the development of Binhai New Area. It was once the cradle and pioneer of development of New China's physical industry. Since the reform and opening-up, Binhai New Area always adheres to the road of large-scale opening to promote the development of the real economy". He added, "Currently, advantageous industries such as aerospace, automobile and equipment manufacturing, electronic information, petrochemical, biomedicine, new energy and new material have been formed. It is unique in various national new areas across the country." He said that they gained remarkable achievements in "education, insurance, medication, food, clothing, and housing".

Marking the 40th anniversary of reform and opening-up, Chinese live a peaceful and prosperous life with immense of delight and happiness. Now the question is that what do all those mega-companies and investment have to do with Afghanistan?

One will answer to the question with a glance to the above facts. Initially, China was known as "the world's factory" for attracting overseas companies for manufacturing. Now China is not going to rely on being the world's factory but going beyond it. Afghanistan also has to pave the ground for foreign investment and open its door wider to foreign companies. There are many secure places in Afghanistan which are ripe for investment. If the ground for investment is not paved in the country, economic development will remain elusive. It goes without saying that Afghanistan has fertile land, rich mineral resources and huge human capital but still wrestles with economic crisis.

The country should learn how Chinese government subsidizes and supports the companies and enterprises, which contribute to poverty alleviation and create jobs for people. Afghanistan should further establish state-owned companies to create jobs and extend its business with neighboring countries, including China. The aforementioned facts are only few examples that Afghanistan can learn from China to rely on its own economy.

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Three Visions on Future US Foreign Policy

By Ahmad Zubair

The term foreign policy is defined as a set of political goals that illustrates the interaction of a country with the rest of the world. Attaining and protecting national interest, national security, ideological goals and economic prosperity constitute the primary focus of foreign policy of a state at the international level. In particular, the goal of US foreign policy is to create a more secure, democratic and prosperous world for the benefit of American people. The three possible visions that I put forward on the future of US foreign policy includes the denuclearization of nuclear states, who are potential threat to global security; sustaining United States' global hegemony and the growing tendency of US towards the political isolation from global politics coupled with protectionism in trade.

Denuclearization of nuclear states and preventing nuclear proliferation have been and continue to be US foreign policy priorities. However, the denuclearization process has followed an uneven and sometimes paradoxical path in post-World War II. From one hand during the Cold War years, the world witnessed proliferation of nuclear weapon technology, mostly within countries with high technical capabilities. For instance, the United States until 2009 designed more than 31000 warheads. From another hand, the US pursued denuclearization of smaller powers as an integral part of its foreign policy. Historical and current denuclearization and disarmament have targeted vibrant measures for bilateral corporation in order to reduce nuclear weapons, their production materials and facilities and their delivery systems. The denuclearization and preventing nuclear proliferation efforts of US have shown two different paths.

One, the two super powers in order to prevent further proliferations nuclear weapons and preserve the status quo reached several agreements between each other. It includes the formation of International Legal Framework for Denuclearization. In addition to their disarmament agreements, the efforts taken by the two nuclear states can be observed as additional confidence building measure between the two states. Likewise, a large number of denuclearization and nuclear disarmament treaties took place between the United States and Russia. These two states being the two super powers had always utilized their leverage in dealing with denuclearization process globally. Secondly, the denuclearization and preventing nuclear proliferation efforts also focused on preventing smaller states from achieving nuclear weapons. It includes the United States efforts to convince Pakistan and India not to develop nuclear weapons, though it failed to achieve its aims. Though, the US and other countries succeeded in convincing Ukraine to give up its nuclear program, however, the Crimean crises showed that it failed to secure its territorial integrity in the face of Russian aggression. This trend of future US foreign policy is applicable to regimes such as Iran and North Korea who are potential threats to international order and the interest of United States. To that end, the US government has escalated economic and political sanctions on the Iranian government. It is highly likely that the Trump administration would go as far as for a preventive war to barricade Iran from attaining nuclear weapons.

The US foreign policy on denuclearization lacks consistency. The Obama administration signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to stop Iran from pursuing its nuclear programs. However, Trump's administration left the deal. Exiting from the JCPOA left other countries including US allies in a state of ambivalence and uncertainties. It can hinder reaching a productive agreement with the North Korean leader about destruction of North Korean nuclear bases. The United States is committed to pursue a strong and specific future policy with regards to denuclearization and preventing nuclear proliferations. Former nuclear disarmament and denuclearization agreements and treaties were exclusively decided between the United States and Russia primarily due to having the largest arsenals. The future US foreign policy with regards to denuclearization probably involves additional parties when it comes

to signing agreements.

Preserving the US hegemony is the second priority of the US foreign policy. Powerful countries have always had the capacity and the desire to influence the international system of which they are a part of (Watson 1992). The present era differs from the Cold War years. After the collapse of the USSR, the United States remained the sole superpower in a unipolar world, the unipolar world benefits it greatly. The US has more stake than any other country in preserving the post-Soviet world order. Thus the US is keen to sustain its hegemonic power. The hegemonic power of the United States is manifested in the areas which include economy, military, politics and culture. Nothing has happened in the interim to change this basic position, despite widespread concerns in the 1980s about the supposed decline in America's hegemonic position (Keohane 1984; Kennedy 1989). Without doubt, the end of cold war in 1990s and the economic development of the United States during and after the 1990s settled its hegemonic position and locked in its dominance for the future as well. However, the rise of China would pose tension in the US hegemonic position. On the face of new threat to its position, the US would assert measures to make sure it has the final words in the International affairs. The recent US tariffs on the Chinese imports could be symptoms of hegemonic tensions. This leads us to my third vision which discusses the recent US disregard of the liberal order.

Recent US foreign Policy behaviors can give us the glimpses of how future might evolve. The US had adopted isolationism in the international politics for most of its history. The visionary US president Woodrow Wilson came up with the idea of League of Nations in the aftermath of World War I. However, he failed to convince his own nation to join the league. The American public views and political elites favored to stay out of European and world politics. It was the World War II which dragged the United States out of its isolation and turned it to an active great power in the world affairs. In post-World War II, US helped creating the United Nations and other international organizations such as World Bank, International Monetary Funds (IMF) and World Trade Organizations (WTO). Since, then it has been the most vocal supporter of these institutions.

However, the US under Donald Trump signals the signs of retreating back to pre-world wars political isolationism and economic protectionism. He is also reversing all the outward looking policies adopted by previous US presidents. It's manifested in his contempt towards international organizations such as UN, WTO and Trade Agreements like NAFTA which could undermine the liberal order constructed and upheld by the US in post-World War II. This retreat could be the symptom of US public opinions who have become tired of US interventionism and international adventurism. However, temporary it maybe the absence of US from other parts of the world would create political vacuum which likely will experience political turbulences until the vacuum is filled by emerging regional powers like China and India in Asia.

These three visions besides lacking consistency and coherence seem paradoxical in some aspects. For instance if the United State is keen to preserve its hegemony at the international level undermining liberal order would be a self-defeating endeavor, the United State as its primary beneficiary has benefited a lot due to its mere existence. When it comes to the third vision, engaging in wars with Iran or North Korea over nuclear issues would contradict United States' isolationism and inward-looking tendencies. Such inconsistencies is typical of great power politics which contains contradictory elements of foreign policy behaviors in dealing with various challenges. However, there is also the possibility of these three visions would be combined together-adjusting contradictory elements- and establish the future course of US foreign policy.

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