



**Center for Global & Strategic Studies
Islamabad**

Peace or Economy: What is Priority?

By Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Ramay

Published on 6th March, 2019



The author is Member Advisory Board CGSS and
Executive Director Zalmi Foundation, Pakistan

Peace is very precious concept which humanity is pursuing from the unknow times. At the same time instinct to dominate and mint the benefits at any cost is running in the blood of humans. History is full of contradictory behaviors and actions. The struggle between peace and interests is going on and there seems to be no end to it. Disturbing fact is that even wars were fought at the name of peace. Interests were disguised in the slogans of humanity, peace, religion or values etc.

Tactics changed with the time and human beings innovated new ways to engage in the war of peace and interests. Powerful nations had and have, the monopoly to define the norms and values of war and peace according to their will, desire and

interests. In old days humans were exploited at the name of religion, food, geography or greed for expansion. Today humans are being exploited at the name of human rights, values and most dangerously at name of fear. For the last many centuries, religion also played a dominant role. Today the most powerful tools are fear and religion.

But these are the smoke screens to reach the objective. The real objective is economic benefits. The greed. The self-wellbeing. To achieve the maximum. In past the greed had a limit. Today greed has unleashed itself. Human have invented new means and tools to expand the greed. To achieve these objectives, they also invented new tools of destruction of follow human beings.

Today we are living in a world, where world has been sharply divided between two groups. One group look at conflicts through the prism of "Economy of War" . Other group is victim of war. In present times economic interests have suppressed all other competing notions. In modern times, the first clue of dominance of economic interest came from the words of Mr. Woodrow Wilson and rest is the history. It is known that World War-II started after the rise of Hitler, but it is little known that economy also played a dominant role. During and after the World War-II USA started to redefine the economic structure. Mr. White initiated the process and USA introduced completely new system of economy and governance by forging partnerships with other countries. New system included International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and United Nations.

IFIs and UN had deep structural issues in governance and implementation. It was designed to systematically benefit the developed and powerful nations.

Distribution of economic benefit made conditional to alliance with powerful players. Cold War era highlighted the shortcomings, but it was managed by one way or other. IFIs and UN advocated the values of liberal order. Liberal economy was presented as sole recipe for development. Communism was presented as obsolete and main hurdle to development. However, believers of communism preached it as a solution for all the ills of world. Cold war era belongs to competition between communism and capitalism.

Capitalism and communism ideologies unkindly divided world between two groups. These groups kept on fighting at the name of wellbeing and peace of world. During the course hundreds of thousands of people were killed in different conflicts. The war ended with collapse of USSR for time being. Right after the collapse of USSR, Western world invented terrorism as a threat and tag the concept with Muslims. For the last three decades Muslims are being targeted at the name of terrorism like USSR was targeted at name of communism.

A number of Muslim countries like Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, Syria, etc. have been bulldozed at name of terrorism. Some Muslim countries like Pakistan, Iran etc. are facing economic sanctions for not bowing to Western interests. One thing is common in both types, economic interests have ensured by one way or other. Arms companies secured their selling to all parties including the terrorists. Oil companies captured the lion share in production and export from these countries. Construction, medical and many other types of companies also secured their interests. Government also made hefty money in shape of taxes and other

deductions. Military personals also ensured their share mostly through their industrial friends.

President Eisenhower categorically highlighted this holy alliance of military-industrial complex a long time ago. He defined the economic interests and greed of growing elite of USA in the backdrop of this alliance. He warned Americans of the looming threat of war on economy at cost of anything.

War on terrorism has further aggravated situation. States has started to abuse the concept. Freedom movements are tag with terrorism and states use all instruments to kill the people and freedom fighters. States are being given scape by putting forward argument of sovereignty. Regretfully, this notion is only available to favorite nations with deep pockets. Other way round it can be said economic determine the decision. For example, it is open secret that Kashmir movement is for independence in accordance with the principles of UN. UN Security Council itself recognized the right to self-determination of their future.

Despite this reality, when Kashmiris asked for their rights, they are being declared terrorists by India. India sell this narrative and global leader, who pretend to be champion of values, human rights and freedom buy it without hesitation. The reason is very simple, economic interests. Advanced countries are looking for grabbing the opportunities to sell their arms. They are already in competing mood to sell the fighter jets like Rafael and F-21 etc. India is already one of the leading importers of weapons and this give incentive to all exporters to side with her.

On other hand India is also really big market. It has the largest middle class. Developed countries look at India as fruit ripe to grab. They are trying to apply all

their instruments to get entry in market. Therefore, most of the time they keep their eye close on human atrocities in India at hand of Indian government and forces.

However, when these countries realize that economic interest can be best served through war, they do not hesitate to start. Libya became victim on this front. Western countries destroyed the country at the name of democracy. France applied modern instruments of destruction and lift no stone un turn to destroy the country. Interesting to know is that it was all done by applying a beautiful name “Right to Protect” .Iraq is another example, country was destroyed on assumptions and lies. Egypt went through experimentation. So, story of contradicting behavior and actions is very long, and it seems it will continue like the past.

However, a question arises here, if peace is not objective of elite or powerful, then why it is being preached again and again? The answer is very simple, peace ensures the security of life, livelihoods and dignity. These commodities have very high value for common people. Therefore, it is easier to sell to people at minimum cost. To highlight the importance of peace and fear of unknown, system needs bad guys. Terrorists are being hatched to fill that part. It is not conspiracy theory, it is reality. If terrorists are not hatched by these groups, from where terrorist get the arms and weapons of high quality. From where they get the money? These are simple questions which never answered but only blame is shifted from one country to another country.

The world elite must understand that, these all tactics will be valid till time of explosion of most destructive arms by terrorists or any country. Therefore, it is advisable for world elite to start honoring common man, human rights, human

dignity and real peace. Economy is dependent on human, if human are not there, no economy will exist.

