Challenges to Peace and Security in the Contemporary World Order

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ABSTRACT

It takes great responsibility of scholars and academics to help peace and justice prevail in the true sense in the world. Education is a very powerful tool, if it is used for the correct purpose, to raise the correct issues plaguing the world and help solve them. The role of a scholar is not only to help every citizen of the world live a dignified and peaceful life but also to help peace and justice prevail in the world. The world cannot be called truly civilized and developed until all its citizens are living in peace. The inhuman practices of violence and barbarism by one group on another leads humanity back to the stone age undoing the steps it took towards modern day civilization. This paper raises the quintessential ontological epistemological question “the challenges to world peace and security the answer is clear the neo colonial imperialism and crony capitalism of the contemporary world order is the greatest challenge to world peace and security.”

1. Introduction

Humanism is the only - I would go so far as saying the final - resistance we have against the inhuman practices and injustices that disfigure human history.

It is the fundamental right of all human beings to live a life of peace and dignity.

Peace, justice, equality, good environment, love, compassion, happiness are the essentials of the very human existence. Humanity will be blamed if the citizens of the world are living in oppression and violence. The world cannot be called truly civilized and developed until all its citizens are living in peace. The inhuman practices of violence and barbarism by one group on another leads humanity back to the stone age undoing the steps it took towards modern day civilization.

Unfortunately there are some barbaric intransigent regimes and states which pose a threat to world peace, because of their lust for power, hegemony, supremacy of race and supremacy of culture, neo colonialism, colonial mentality, imperialism, III effects of crony capitalism are all responsible for the various conflicts in the world today the situation is getting worse by the day and is leading to a possibility of a third world war. In today’s world, one form or another, of conflict does exist in almost every region.

The multi polar world as we see today is moving from one conflict to another, there is not a single country left on the face of the earth which has not experienced conflict in one form or another, while the western world with its colonial hegemonies’ policies is often the perpetrator of the conflict or the cause of it, they themselves have to bear the burnt of the conflict in the form of terrorist attacks and refugee crisis. Middle eastern countries have assumed the centre stage in world conflict. The lust for power, wealth and supremacy are the main reason behind the conflicts and the greatest challenge to world peace.

This lust for power and supremacy existed ever since humanity came into existence. The very first conflict of the world can be traced back to the biblical era when the biblical character of Cane in order to prove his supremacy over his brother Able killed him. Colonialism itself was a great conflict. The end of colonialism plunged the contemporary world further into multi polar block conflicts. The Israeli Palestine conflict being the most prominent one amongst them, India and Pakistan are still undergoing conflict after partition and divide and rule policy of the British colonial rule. This ever growing unending lust for power and money supremacy is further polarizing the world leading to a vicious circle the biggest challenge to the world peace and security. M. Foucault is one of the most renowned thinkers on the issue of power, he explains how power is a form of fascism and is present in all humans. “The strategic adversary is fascism, the fascism in us all in our heads and in our everyday behavior, the fascism causes us to love power and to desire the very thing that dominates and exploits us.”

Foucault presented a structural approach to power, he explained how states use this power to become more powerful and absolute linking repression to power. He believed power could be found in the structure of our lives and societies but also in everyday language. Let us walk back the memory lane to the history of humanity. The first request of civilization ... is that of justice.

It takes great responsibility of scholars and academics to help peace and justice prevail in the true sense in the world, education is a very powerful tool, if it is used for the correct purpose, to raise the correct issues plaguing the world and help solve them. The role of a scholar is not only to help every citizen of the world live a dignified and peaceful life but also to help peace and justice prevail in the world. This paper raises the quintessential ontological epistemological question “the challenges to world peace and security the answer is clear the neo colonial imperialism and crony capitalism of the contemporary world order is the greatest challenge to world peace and security.”

1 Edward Said, Orientalism, 1978
2 UNIFEM 2015
3 Michaeal Foucault, Discipline and Punish, 1975
4 Erikson Armed Conflict 2001: 159
5 SIGMUND FREUD, Civilization and Its Discontent
security. "We are at a point in our work when we can no longer ignore empires and the imperial context in our studies."  

We have to understand the concept of imperialism, capitalism and interest based banking system which serves the purpose of enriching a few powerful elite financiers. capitalism as a concept is not unfair but in the absence of a regulatory authority and accountability, capitalism becomes a tool of exploitation by the economic imperialists. Earlier imperialism was the hegemony of colonialists but gradually after passing through many stages of neo colonization it has acquired the Status of crony capitalism. Earlier property was personally owned by a labor belonging smaller proprietor, with freer competitiveness. Slowly Capitalism has grown into crony capitalism with financial oppression of majority of the world population of the world by a few blocks of power. The world wealth is shared between three or four powerful anachories fully armed involving the whole world in their unprecedented greed leading to conflicts and war. "The work of an intellectual is not to mould the political will of others; it is, through the analyses that he does in his own field, to re-examine evidence and assumptions, to shake up habitual ways of working and thinking, to dissipate conventional familiarities, to re-evaluate rules and institutions and to participate in the formation of a political will (where he has his role as citizen to play)."  

2. Colonization a basic form of Imperialism

Let us walk back in memory lane and go through a brief history of colonization followed by the definitions and explanation of the term imperialism the history of colonization can be traced to the Fifteenth century after the time of exploration of America, Asia, Africa and Middle Eastern countries by Portuguese and Spanish.

The Spanish, Portugal empires were first global empires, during Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries along with British and Dutch empires while 19th century saw the period of decolonization. Rise of neo colonization. and new imperialism started after the second industrial revolution in 19th century. The European imperial powers had colonial Ideology based policies and ideology of European colonial expansion between the 1870s and 1914 opening up of Suez Canal leading to Second Industrial Revolution) and World War I is called the age of "New Imperialism." This time period is also known as acquiring an "empire for empire's sake," aggressive colonization on the basis of racial superiority. The first world war 1914 to 1918 saw the divisions of colonies among the winners as mandates. German Empire was defeated and the Empire of Ottoman broke up. Colonies which were ruled by these broken up empires were given under the rule of League of Nations, which again gave it to the victorious colonial powers as their "mandates". Sykes-Picot Agreement divided the Middle East secretly in 1916 among Britain and France. France was given Syria and Lebanon, British were given Iraq and Palestine. A major chunk of the Arab peninsula acquired independence in 1992 and became a Kingdom called Saudi Arabia. During the 1970s discovery of large amount of crude oil deposits started the phase of Western indirect rule and economic hegemony in the middle east. 1920 and 1930s saw Iraq, Syria and Egypt gaining independence, though it was partial as British and French did not officially leave the region till the end of World War II.

"The main battle in imperialism is over land, of course; but when it came to who owned the land, who had the right to settle and work on it, who kept it going, who won it back, and now plans its future--these issues were reflected, contested, and even for a time decided in narrative. As one critic has suggested, nations themselves are narratives."  

During the later half of 19th century Japan saw an era of domestic conflicts followed by an age of radical development. Japan remained closed to west for ages and slowly opened during the Meiji Era (1868–1912). Russo-Japanese War: marked Japan as an imperial power while china was still suffering from colonization." The Soviet Union always opposed colonization and was the sole supporter of decolonization movements. China's became a force only under the leadership of Mao Zedong.

3. Rise of Imperialism

The second phase of decolonization started after second world war. After this period world was divided into bi polar powers and soon the world became multi polar smaller blocks of power after the fall of USSR. Imperial capitalism again reshaped the world politics and economics into two parts one block of financial imperialists who have an economic hegemony on the world's wealth and control it and the other block of ordinary citizens of the world. now let us move forward to answering the ontological epistemological question "the challenges to world peace and security" by understanding the concept of imperialism. Amid the welter of vague political abstractions to lay one's finger accurately upon any "ism" so as to pin it down and mark it out by definition seems impossible. Where meanings shift so quickly and so subtly, not only following changes of thought, but often manipulated artificially by political practitioners so as to obscure, expand, or distort, it is idle to demand the same rigour as is expected in the exact sciences. A certain broad consistency in its relations to other kindred terms is the nearest approach to definition which such a term as Imperialism admits. Nationalism, internationalism, colonialism, its three closest congeneres, are equally elusive, equally shifty, and the changeful overlapping of all four demands the closest vigilance of students of modern politics.

Scholars like Lennin and John emphasize the 19th century was marked by nationalist movements, nationality based political unions were formed, just like dynastic movements and the real agenda of these political unions was increasing territorial space thus increasing the market. The need for Imperialism arose due to the extra capital they had, by employing the public resources of their country to the derived great profit out of their capital. Production methods were improved, every concentration of ownership and control, was utilized for deriving more profit. As many nations became

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6 Edward Said. Culture and Imperialism. 1993 Chatto and windus
7 Michel Foucault. Discipline and Punish. 1975
8 Edward Said. Culture and Imperialism. 1993 Chatto and windus
9 John A. Hobson (1858–1940), an English economist, wrote one the most famous critiques of the economic bases of imperialism in 1902.
developed into mechanized economies by adopting modern industrial tools, it became difficult for producers, traders, and capitalists to gain profit, the lust for profit led them, and their Governments to indirectly occupy underdeveloped countries in the name of development. An example for this is the railways. The building of railways is shown as democratic, socio cultural and civilization process, the reality is capitalists use this building of railways for private profiteering by helping the means of production and providing a market, thus railway construction became tool of capitalist oppression in the colonies, more than half of the world population is living in the underdeveloped countries, have become indirect slaves of capitalists as well as the salaried class in the developed countries. In fact imperial rivalry is one of the core reasons behind the two world wars. In the context of colonialism, Imperialism is defined as a system where a powerful nation indirectly or directly controls and profits from other nations by puppet regimes, annexation, political and economic subjugation, war. Once completely occupied, this territory is claimed as a colony. Colonies are indirectly ruled and administered by imperial nations, either through a puppet government or local collaborators. The imperialist country’s military is kept in the colony, to maintain peace, to suppress dissent revolutions, and to check rival imperial nations. The main purpose of colonies is economic subjugation with added military geopolitical advantages along with profit and supply of raw material and resources, like timber, rubber, rice or other foodstuffs along with labour, agricultural land and trading ports. The British Empire is the best example as it colonized one quarter of the globe ("the sun never sets on Britain" was a famous slogan of the mid 19th century).

4. Imperialism is the Peak of Capitalism

Imperialism emerged as the development and direct continuation of the fundamental characteristics of capitalism in general. Slowly capitalism transpired into capitalist imperialism at the highest stage of its development, fundamental characteristics of capitalism transformed the capitalist free competition is displaced by capitalist monopoly. Monopoly is the exact opposite of free competition. Replacement of large-scale and small scale industries by huge very larger-scale industry, concentration of production and capital was carried out by cartels, syndicates and trusts, along with, the capital of a dozen or so banks, manipulating thousands of millions, while those monopolies, which have grown out of free competition, do not eliminate the latter, but exist over it and alongside of it, and thereby give rise to a number of very acute, intense antagonisms, frictions and conflicts. Imperialism is the monopoly stage of capitalism, the stages can be defined below -

1) first stage of concentration of production and capital leading to a higher stage of monopolies creation which further control the economies;
2) marriage of bank and industrial capitals, to create, a "finance capital," of a financial oligarchy;
3) the export of capital along with export of commodities
4) invention of international capitalist monopolies which control and share the world’s economy amongst them.
5) physical division of countries amongst the big neo colonial nations.

Imperialist capitalism in the highest stage of capitalism where the capitalist monopolies have created a finance capital and its export has acquired prime importance; these big capitalist international hegemonies have divided all territories of the globe among them. The famous words of Sir Thomas More are as true now as when he wrote them: "Everywhere do I perceive a certain conspiracy of rich men seeking their own advantage under the name and pretext of the commonwealth." The new imperialism differs from the older, first, in substituting for the ambition of a single growing empire the theory and the practice of competing empires, each motivated by similar lusts of political aggrandizement and commercial gain; secondly, in the dominance of financial or investing over mercantile interests.

The direct economic outcome of Imperialism can be seen in the expenditure of revenue collected from the public in the form of taxes in buying defense material like war ships, high quality guns, military material and naval equipment, the greatest profit is earned through growth and production of war material during a war or an alarm is raised; billions of tax payers money in the form of new military budget is eaten up by the war mongers. The best example is that of USA's spending in its war. According to Neta Crawford, the cost of war from 2001 to 2016 is calculated approximately at 12.7 trillion Us dollars, 4.9 trillion dollars is the military cost while 7.9 trillion dollars is the cumulative interest. If only that amount is used for providing food and health to the world citizens then the world would have become a peaceful place till now. "The abiding western domination can with religious sanction identify anything dark, profound, or fluid with a revolting chaos, an evil to be mastered, a nothing to be ignored. 'God had made us master organizers of the world to establish system where chaos reigns. He has made us adept in government that we may administer government among savages and senile peoples.' From the vantage point of the colonizing episteme, the evil is always disorder rather than unjust order; anarchly rather than control, darkness rather than pallor. To plead otherwise is to write 'carte blanche for chaos.' Yet those who wear the mark of chaos, the skins of darkness, the genders of unspeakable openings -- those Others of Order keep finding voice. But they continue to be muted by the bellowing of the dominant discourse."

5. The Banks and their Role as Backbone of Imperialism

Small level of banks existed since the earliest civilizations, they loaned money, Jews loaned money, played multiple roles of goldsmith, traders of precious stones. Even now the modern banking system is controlled by Zionists. Slowly the banking system started acting middlemen in the making of payments. Banks started changing inactive money into active profit yielding money, through taking an interest on it; banks acted as a tool in the hands of capitalists who collected huge money through revenues which was placed at their disposal. Banking developed and capital was concentrated with

11 Anthony Cordesman 10 July 2017 Centre for strategic and international studies
12 Catherine Keller, Face of the Deep: A Theology of Becoming, 2002
handful of establishments which further became power blocks monopolizing capital, means of production resources and raw materials of a country controlled by capitalists. This transformation is the turning point of capitalism into capitalist imperialism; “This bank capital, i.e., capital in money form, which is thus actually transformed into industrial capital, I call ‘finance capital’.” “Finance capital is capital controlled by banks and employed by industrialists.”13 Production concentration of and monopolizing of finance with banks and industry— is the point of rise of capitalist imperialism

6. Division of World Economy amongst Crony Capitalists

The beginning of crony capitalism saw huge capitalist blocks procuring control over the domestic markets of their own countries through business associations, trade syndicates and trusts slowly taking complete possession of the industries. We know that the domestic market of a country is tied up with international market. Thus Capitalists made the world market into their own with increased capital, and expansion and influence of international connections and associations and were formed. Crony capitalism is a new form of capitalism which is much greater than the previous forms steadily becoming neocolonialism, let us look at the stages of these developments.

1) means of production was merged with capital for production to concentrate power and create monopolies which hold the key to economy of a country;
2) accumulation of bank capital and industrial capital to make a huge capital,
3) capital is exported and is exceptionally important for survival
4) creation of capitalist monopolies associations which divide countries with small economies amongst them,
5) division of developing and underdeveloped countries amongst capitalist neo imperialist countries.

7. Neocolonialism

Neocolonialism and Neo-imperialism is the geopolitical method of using economic exploitation through crony capitalism, business globalization both based on hegemonic imperialism, and cultural imperialism to rule a country either through direct military control or indirect political control. Neocolonialism of today represents imperialism in its final and perhaps its most dangerous stage “The term neo-colonialism was coined by Ghanaian president Kwame Nkrumah, to describe the socio-economic and political control that can be exercised economically, linguistically, and culturally, whereby promotion of the neo-colonist country facilitates the cultural assimilation of the colonized people and thus opens the national economy to the multinational corporations of the neo-colonial country”14


8. Tactics Employed by Neo-Colonialists to Exploit Developing Countries

1) Economic Exploitation

Colonialists used different methods to exploit. Like social methods, economic methods, cultural methods and political methods.

A. Mass investment—mass investment is the method by which an imperialist nation invests huge amount of capital in developing countries. They have many companies in which they exploit monopolize market area and use the countries natural resources and cheap labour. example—coca cola has been accused of dehydrating communities in pursuit of water resources to feed its own plants, drying up farmers wealth and destroying local agriculture. complains have been made against coca cola in India, Colombia, Turkey, Guatemala and Russia.15

B. Grip on world market—Powerful imperial nations control global market by fixing price of general commodities example is African cash crops. These countries keep the prices of African cash crops so low so that Africa remains dependent to their aid. These imperialist nations use African and developing world countries as a dumping place their finished products and as a means of labour and as a market for their products with the aim of exploiting African and Asia countries.

C. Loans and grant—Another method is through giving loans and grants to the developing countries. Imperialist regimes use economic tools such as world Bank, IMF, IFC to loan money to developing countries at very high interest rates with unrealistic conditions. These conditions proved hard for many nations to repay, and they ended up in a vicious circle of debt and became submerged in their debt burden hence always remained under development.

D. Unjust economic Exchange—This is another exploitative method used by colonialists to exploit developing world. The developed countries do not share their technologies with the developing world. Developing countries produce cheaper high quality goods in large quantities in a shorter period of time. Due to advantages of better technology expertise, transport, electricity. Something manufactured in America can take only two hours to be produced. In developing country it may take a week. This makes it difficult for poor countries to compete with the rich one.

2) Media and educational means of exploitation

News is manufactured to suit the narratives of the imperialist nations. Through a web of global mass media such as BBC, CNN, VOA, DW Education is one of the tools employed by neo-colonialist to condition developing countries into exploitation. In developing countries the curriculum is

15 war on want -19th November 2007
mostly controlled by imperialistic viewpoints aimed at increasing their hold rather than practical education. The educational level of African nations is far below the developed world.

"Every empire, however, tells itself and the world that it is unlike all other empires, that its mission is not to plunder and control but to educate and liberate." 16

We have to constantly critique imperialist white supremacist patriarchal culture because it is normalized by mass media and rendered unproblematic." 17

3) Political Methods

Politically, neo-colonialism is very active and has employed a great effort in order to establish its control over the neo colonies. They used many tricks and methods:

A. Through establishing relation with ruling class. And take them in their favour through expensive gifts and other allurements and also supporting them to rule their countries for long periods of time, the Neo colonialist used to establish good relationship with ruling class so as to influence their interest through them for instance treaty to conduct various economic activities such in mines, gas which are benefit to them.

B. Supporting dictatorship and puppet regimes - The imperialists used to support the puppet leader in the neo colonies who served their interest. The leader benefitted individually with the imperialists while the countries remained in poor condition. It is common in developing countries the Leaders are very rich while their citizens live in poor economic conditions.

C. Through establishment of military base. The imperialists introduce the military base in developing countries to safeguard their interests. For example USA has got 234 military base in 49 countries of Africa and Asia.

Another tactics employed by neo colonists is to create such situations in the world so that one country or a group of countries remain in conflict with another set at any given point of time. This helps in their gaining from selling them arms and other war basics at huge profits.

Now let us look at the data to see how the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer creating a constant conflict and strife amongst the different countries of the world. The wealth of the world is concentrated amongst a handful of elite imperialists. There is a looming danger of third world war. Due to hegemony of intransigent imperialist blocks of power hungry financier blocks.

Following is a report published in oxfam opinion-

A new Oxfam Report has a number of startling claims about wealth inequality around the world – the world’s eight richest people control the same wealth as the poorest half of the globe’s population. Oxfam has published similar reports for a number of years, released just before the annual World Economic Forum. The globe’s richest 1% own half the world’s wealth, according to a new report highlighting the growing gap between the super-rich and everyone else. The world’s richest people have seen their share of the globe’s total wealth increase from 42.5% at the height of the 2008 financial crisis to 50.1% in 2017, or $140tn (£106tn), according to Credit Suisse’s global wealth report published on Tuesday.

Figure-1

Below is an image showing the ground water level in the world, the capitalist forces in their quest for more profit are depleting the natural resources of the world and draining the water sources on unprecedented level causing global warming. The green planet is turning unlivable because of the greed for money and lust for power.

Figure-2

Imperialism consolidated the mixture of cultures and identities on a global scale. But its worst and most paradoxical gift was to allow people to believe that they were only, mainly,

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17. bell hooks, Homegrown: Engaged Cultural Criticism, 2006
exclusively, white, or Black, or Western, or Oriental. Yet just as human beings make their own history, they also make their cultures and ethnic identities. No one can deny the persisting continuities of long traditions, sustained habitations, national languages, and cultural geographies, but there seems no reason except fear and prejudice to keep insisting on their separation and distinctiveness, as if that was all human life was about. Survival in fact is about the connections between things; in Eliot’s phrase, reality cannot be deprived of the "other echoes [that] inhabit the garden." It is more rewarding - and more difficult - to think concretely and sympathetically, contrapuntally, about others than only about "us." But this also means not trying to rule others, not trying to classify them or put them in hierarchies, above all, not constantly reiterating how "our" culture or country is number one (or not number one, for that matter).”

9. Terrorist organizations

All major terrorist organizations were formed as a protest against continued neo-colonization and economic imperialism. Some examples are below; these terrorist organizations are listed in the US department of State.

1. Boko Haram—Nigeria, founded in 2002 against western influence in Nigerian society, the meaning of the name is western education is forbidden, the cult group blamed the western influence as the reason behind corruption in the society, graft and economic corruption. The organization blamed Nigeria’s economic problems on the concentration of wealth in the hands of a small political elite of mainly Christians aligned with west and became extremist as the economy started dwindling, the cult associated the western influence to imperialism or neo-colonialism.

2. ISIS—Iraq and Syria, in 2003, one of the most extremist terrorist organization of this century. This extremist cult wrongly uses religion to justify its barbaric in human practices. This cult was formed as a result of continued war.

3. Basque fatherland and liberty—Spain, founded in 1959, was founded to fight the graft of the imperialist influenced government and concentration of economic wealth with the govt.

4. LTTE—Sri Lanka, founded in 1976 against the neo-colonialist anti-imperialist concentration of power and wealth, wanted to form a separate Tamil land.

5. Aum shinrikyo—Japan, founded in 1984, split Hikani and Aleph in 2007, it is a dooms day cult and believes that the world will come to an end due to the third world war started by the imperialist United States.

6. Kahane Chai—founded by Meir Kahane in Israel against economic imperialism.

7. Hamas—founded in 2007 in Palestine against occupation and waged many wars against Israel.

8. Real Irish Republican Army, Ireland, founded by 1997, to free from British imperialist sovereignty over north Ireland and unite Ireland.

I would like to end the chapter by the following quote of focault “The real political task in a society such as ours is to criticize the workings of institutions that appear to be both neutral and independent, to criticize and attack them in such a manner that the political violence that has always exercised itself obscurely through them will be unmasked, so that one can fight against them.”


20 Taiaiake Alfred, Wasáse: Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom, 2005

21 Mahatma Gandhi 1930