

CHALLENGES OF PEACE

At the present moment even the most progressive societies are undergoing stress in fulfilling their democratic and humanitarian aspiration. The influx of the immigrants in Europe, who wish to adhere to their religious belief and continue to practice the culture of the society from where they have come, is the main cause of this social tension. At the same time the deteriorating socio-political structures in many developing countries, governed by authoritarian rulers and afflicted by the problems of poverty, are forcing population to move to affluent part of the world. The struggle between the undemocratic fundamentalist religious rulers and the democratic progressive society is becoming a conflict between technologically organized superior nations with people who wish to assert themselves by adopting the means of terror. While one side clings to religious belief and values of old traditional cultures, contradictory to universal human rights and democracy, the other side builds mechanisms in the global arena to bring an end to fundamentalism which tries to subjugate others by acts of terror.

This increased tension in containing the religious fundamentalism, combined with the conflicts between capitalist and communist ideologies, is building a polarized world, where promotion of democracy and human rights is considered by the opponents, as a tactic of the capitalists and old colonial powers to interfere into the sovereignty of other nations. For example, operation of NATO in Libya in removing Colonel Gadhafi from power has been interpreted by Russia and China as a way of the western powers to maintain control of the energy resources they need for their economic development. According to their view by inciting demonstrations and public protest in demand of human rights and freedom similar tactic is underway to remove Assad from Syria and bring Iran with its oil reserves into their fold.

Thus human rights and democracy has many facades. While country like Norway, who enjoys sufficient oil reserve, and is not to any major way affected by immigrations of religious fundamentalists, promotes human rights and democracy from humanitarian point of view without carrying a hidden political agenda, US exploits democracy and human rights as a way of interfering into sovereignty of other nations in pursuit of economic resources and military bases.

The US, enjoying the position of the uncontested superpower, rattles saber in order to bring in the world in whatever way they may want. When it is possible to act by building consensus in the framework of the UN, the US works in that way. If they fail to gather support in the UN they

go in their own way by building alliance with nations friendly to them, and/or rely on the military firepower of NATO.

The success of maintaining dominance in the world depends on the technological military superiority as well as hegemony over the global financial market. It, in fact, reflects the same psychology which has driven human beings to subjugate and dominate others for ages.

Thus the nature of ruling the world is a mixture of old tactics of making alliances, or breaking alliances according to one`s need to execute programs which will bring success, without concern for what may be universally considered as right or wrong. The emphasis is more on the security through building alliances with others, who have similar cultural history and values. The antagonism against other values, and skepticism about other cultures, hinder humanity to find a common universal ground on which one may build a peaceful world. Unless the moral foundation, on which different cultures and nations draw their nourishments, converge, the prospect of peace will remain far-fetched.