

The Unfinished Agenda

The old left by and large doesn't distinguish itself by an interest in internationalism. Nor does it believe in nationalism. As for humanism for broad masses the less said the better because it is always possible to limit them to a small corner of sectarianism. They live in a world where the decline of American power seems irreversible and it is meaningless to fight the monster as if American hegemonism will vanish automatically. Then there is the growing China phobia which, they think, will in due season cripple the dollar economy to such an extent that the oppressed and subjugated across the globe won't have much to do to liberate themselves from the tyranny of American might. But the Uncle Sam has survived the Vietnam syndrome in Iraq and in all probability the White House policy-makers won't allow their troops to face another Vietnam in Afghanistan. But all this doesn't mean they are going to leave the Middle East anytime soon. Nor will they desist from their continual chase to get Iran back into their strategic orbit. They are just re-deploying and re-arranging their fire-power through their regional client states to finish the unfinished agenda called Iran which was the most trusted partner of America in crime in the region before the radical overthrow of the Shah. Not for nothing there has been in recent months a drumbeat for a military strike by Israel on Iran, supposedly to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear weapons. Also, Iran has become a central focus of the public debate in the US the way Iraq became before American invasion. Given the changed geo-political context it is unlikely for the Pentagon to devastate Iran at the moment while allowing Israel to do some military drills.

Whether Israel can protect American interests in the Middle East in the long run is a matter of speculation. Right now the Obamas have no option but to rely on Israel to carry out its dirty games. The sheer scale of military build up through Israel in the Middle East and in South Asia as well is simply bone-chilling. Israel is by far the largest recipient of US support—outright grants, military sales and economic aid. From 1981 to 2004 the US sent \$1.8 billion a year in military assistance to Israel and since 2004 that figure has been raised to \$2.4 billion. Part of the bargain is that America often utilises Israel as a proxy to distance itself from some of its most odious and barbaric crimes around the world, and particularly in the Middle East. US backing for Israel's brutalities against the Palestinians is not because the American political process has been corrupted by Israel lobby or the Jewish money bag. America arms Israel and defends its indefensible acts including blatant violation of UN resolutions because doing so serves its global objectives.

It is Israel that acts as a military bastion to extend America's interests in Iran. The Shah of Iran was installed in power by a US-engineered coup in 1953. Beginning in the late 1950s, Mossad, the Israeli Intelligence Agency, played a major role in training the Shah's notoriously brutal Savak. As opposition to the Shah's fascistic dictatorship pulsed through Iran, Israel's "Project Power" reportedly pumped military hardware and police equipment worth \$500 million into the security system of the Shah. Though the Shah regime is now history, Israel's role remains unchanged. In truth it has much been enhanced in recent years due to the emergence of a number of non-state stake-holders like pro-Iranian Hamas and Hezbollah.

The hard fact is that Middle East is already a very dangerous place. And the desperate search for another Shah has just compounded this danger. But the Iranians have so far thwarted the US-Israeli manoeuvre successfully and the systematic propaganda about Iranian nuclear capability doesn't sell the way it did in the wake of American intervention in Iraq. But Iran is no Iraq. They could easily aggravate US financial crisis by shutting down the

Strait of Hormuz where 17 million barrels of oil pass through each day, without really firing a missile.

Incidentally, Mossad, as per a Maoist communication, trained the Andhra Pradesh Special Intelligence Bureau that abducted and assassinated Azad, CPI (Maoist) politburo member and spokesperson, and Hem Pandey, a zonal committee level member. Thus Israel as a representative of Uncle Sam is very much in India. □□□