

Question = The war in Ukraine would determine the continuation or decline of west lead global order. Comment.

Ans. Introduction:

24- February, 2022 was the date when Russia invaded Ukraine that day itself is enough to substantiate the point that western lead global order declined, because Russian president Vladimir Putin attacked Ukraine despite receiving multiple warnings from western bloc. It has been almost 1.5 years since the start of war but western bloc has failed to stop this war. Western bloc has tried ~~to~~ everything in their capacity to make Russia ~~sur-~~ender but that does not look imminent. This continuation of war proves that Russia will end this war on its own terms and west cannot bend Russia. This continuation is valid point to say that western led global dominance over the world is ending. Reasons to substantiate this claim will be explained in coming paragraphs.

Reasons to claim the west decline.

From this long war there are multiple reasons to prove that western hegemony is declining such as:

a- China - Russia Nexus:

Since the start of war, China has made a neutral stance. As, China is the second largest economy, western bloc wants China to change its neutrality. China has not blamed nor condemned Russia. It is evident from this fact that China is not coming under any pressure. China has offered its good offices to mediate between Russian and Ukraine. President Xi-Jingping visit to Russia in those times of war, when western bloc trying hard to isolate it - is clear indication that Russia cannot be isolated.

b- Russia's cheap oil advantage.

Russia is rich in oil and gas resources. These resources of Russia allure countries to purchase oil and gas from Russia. Countries such as India purchased Russian oil despite of having international pressure. Imposing sanctions on Russian banks gave a way for

for countries to avoid dollar hegemony and conduct trade in Chinese Yuan, Russian Rubble or even Indian Rupee. It was just like west shot its own foot.

c Ukraine not getting the NATO's ticket.

Main reason of this was Ukraine's accession to NATO. Despite multiple warnings from Russia, not to bring NATO to Russia's doorstep, Ukraine got green signal to enter into NATO's fold. Now as the war has started Ukraine is not getting any closer to get NATO's ticket. Joe Biden also said "we cannot give timeline to Ukraine." This shows that west is in pressure, rather than putting pressure, because if Ukraine come into NATO, this war won't remain within the boundaries of Ukraine-Russia rather it might become the world war.

d West have failed to exhaust the Russian resources.

During the initial days of war, west claimed the war will end within weeks if not in days. This statement was made, because western bloc had

a confidence that soon Russian will be exhausted to continue the war. Russia's continuous resistance against western backed Ukraine forces shows the Russians are still not feeling exhaustive of this war. Ukraine on the other hand has no proper resources to fight Russian fighters. Ukraine is totally dependent upon NATO to provide them assistance to win this war. In other words Ukrainian soldiers are fighting Russians, wearing NATO's uniform. It is possible that NATO's/west's resources might exhaust before Russia's does.

e World's vulnerability over Russia and Ukraine
The fact that cannot be ignored is world's vulnerability over these two specific countries. Russia is the biggest exporter of wheat. Russia and Ukraine jointly export 25.4% of wheat all over the world. Ukraine, individually is the largest exporter of staple grains. Ukraine 41% export is based on staple grains. Russia has stopped grain deal and

not extending it further. This will definitely create the food shortages in the world and the one who is weak will suffer the most. If such situation occurs, western bloc will come under huge pressure and will be bound to surrender before Russian demands, rather than bringing Russia to surrender before them.

Conclusion:

These above mentioned paragraphs are providing valid evidence to consider that this continuation of war has declined the west's global order. As, their global order has failed to impose any pressure on Russia to surrender to their wills nor it is imposing any pressure to other major countries such as India or China to help them in their efforts. Let's wait for the time to tell how and when this is going to end and who will be the ultimate winner.

Question: How do you analyze increasing rapprochement between KSA and Iran?
Also analyze its social-political implications in the middle East and Pakistan.
What measures would you recommend for Islamabad to follow?

Answer

Introduction:

Oil rich giants have daggers drawn to each other for almost eight years. The rupture between Saudi and Iran came when Saudi Arabia executed Shia cleric "Nimr-al-Nimr". That rivalry was not a friendly, rather it was considered as the Muslim cold war where both countries opted the policies of expansionism and alliances in the world generally, and in the region specifically. It was true that Yemen and Houthis war, backed by Iran and Saudi Arabia sucking out the resources of Saudi Arabia more than Iran. That was very detrimental for Kingdom's vision 2030. When KSA wants to compete with Europe in terms of peace and enlightenment. With the help of China both countries ended this hostility and new era of optimism started.

with this rapprochement what benefits both countries and region can cultivate and what measures Pakistan should take will be discussed in coming paragraphs.

1 Rapprochement, the new beginning of hope and optimism.

There is no doubt the Iran and KSA holds the status of most important countries in international arena, due to their largest oil reserves, geographic location, and sacred Muslim places. This rapprochement will bring multiple changes to the whole world and Islamic world i.e.

a End of Muslim Civil war.

Hostility between the two nations were creating a huge gap among all the Muslim nations. This hostility has also made Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) weak. It had become difficult for Muslim countries to join hands on any single agenda. OIC's weakness can be judged from the incident of Malaysia Conference when countries like Iran, Turkey, Malaysia and Pakistan tried to make a new alliance in contrast to OIC. This hostility also halted the major issues of Islamic

world. Issues such as ~~Pakistan~~, Kashmir, Islamophobia had lost their value. After this rapprochement, Muslim Unity has come back.

b. Rising of Middle East as a powerful region.

Powerful countries are vying for global along with regional hegemony such as India and China's competition to gain advantages in region. But this rapprochement has the ability to make Middle East as the most powerful region because, firstly, Middle East is the most resourceful region in the world in terms of oil and gas. Secondly, Middle East connects the three continents Europe, Asia and Africa, through land and sea. It is also true that 80% trade of the world passes through Red sea, Arabian sea and mediterranean sea, all these seas passes through Middle Eastern regions. So, whole world can be vulnerable to Middle East. Such kind of scenario must have rung alarm bells for western nations.

C Anxiety for the West.

Western nations particularly the USA seems unhappy for this bonhomie for three reasons. First reason is, western world considers Iran as their biggest enemy due to Iran's nuclear program.

The USA did everything in her capacity to isolate Iran by imposing crippling sanctions on it. Second reason for their trepidation is losing their status of global peace maker. This rapprochement becomes possible only because of China's role. China after this rapprochement also offered its good offices to solve the decades old conflicts such as Palestine-Israel issue and Kashmir issue. If China succeed in bringing peace to any other conflict, that will be taken as "China the world's peacemaker." Third reason of their anxiety, as mentioned in previous paragraph, is that they might become dependent on Middle-East for using their routes for trade.

Implications on Pakistan.

This rapprochement will bring a great amount of relief to Pakistani government. Iran - KSA rivalry had direct impact on Pakistan, as, Pakistan has both Shia and Sunni population. Both segments of Pakistani society demands Pakistani government to choose sides according to their wishes. Apart from this, due to external pressure and specifically KSA's pressure Pakistan failed to materialize the relations with Iran. Multiple projects halt after their hostility. Currently, this friendship will open doors for Pakistan to exploit the true potential of Pakistan-Iran KSA relations.

3 Recommendations for Islamabad.

Islamabad has to take calculated steps in this scenario. This is high time for Pakistan to open all doors of signing projects, deals, agreements etc. It is also time for Islamabad to revive their halted projects such as TAPI and Peace gas pipelines. It is also time for Pakistan to adopt the same policies for Saudi-Arabia.

as well. Pakistan could not get any other better opportunity to make the best ties with Iran and Saudi-Arabia. It is better for Islamabad to adopt policies with both countries which may not risk the western bloc, because Pakistan cannot afford this at the same time.

Conclusion:

Iran-Saudi Arabia rivalry was so intense that rapprochement between them was looking like an impossible task. Thanks to China it became possible. ~~This deal~~, If all goes according to plan, would open up a new vista of cooperation between two of the Muslim world's most influential states, while the breakthrough also brings to the fore a dominant China's new found role as international peace maker.