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## The Post-War Geopolitical Landscape of Middle-East

① Introduction

The October 7, 2023, war between Hamas and Israel was the turning point of new geopolitical landscape of Middle East.

② Geopolitical Scenario of Middle East After Cease Fire

① Reduced Zero Chances of Saudi-Israel Normalization of Relations

② The End of US leadership in the Region

③ Post war Instability and Role of China and Russia

④ Expansion of Hezbollah Influence Towards Syria

⑤ Alliance Among Pre-Conflict Rivals - Saudi Arabia, Iran, Lebanon

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Conclusion

History has told the world that change in world order requires events that make history. However, the recent Middle East conflict provided an opportunity to change political landscape of the region.

The atrocity of Israel in its genocidal campaign shifted regional as well as world attentions towards Palestine that reshaped the conduct of states. Moreover, the changing state's behaviours are evident that the trajectory of geo-politics has become complicated with respect to traditional geo-political landscape.

The current scenario tells that the future of geo-political order of Middle East would be something like that: the normalization of ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia, as a Muslim leader, would be halted; America has

lost the confidence of people of Middle East which guarantees that he would be no longer perform the role of regional as well as world leader; alliance among pre-conflict rivals, for instance, for the first time Saudi-Iran are united at a single forum to protect the future of Palestinians; and many more. The October 7, 2023, war between Israel and Palestine (Hamas) was the turning point of geo-political landscape of Middle East.

The chances of normalization of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel have been halted. The growing public hate against the barbarity of Israel among the masses of Arab state leave no choice just to halt process. It is the threat to the leader-

ship of de-facto ruler Muhammad Bin salama. If he initiates any relation with Israel the crisis would trigger same like that had happened in Arab Spring. Moreover the statement of de-facto ruler of Saudi Arabia — "There would be no normalization talks between Saudi Arabia and Israel until the two state solution of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. This statement show that no signs to normalization of relation.

The end of US leadership in the region is due to its stance on cease fire talks.

The change in perception of people of Middle East, as he denied to carry out the role of leader in Middle East, would not allow American's presence in the region. Moreover, his

continuously militarily as well as diplomatic support for Israel has further deteriorated the situation. Moreover, America has vetoed four times United Nations Security Council resolutions for cease fire. Its actions have turned the ideas and perceptions of people against him.

The post-war instability, for instance, humanitarian crises, as Israel has destroyed 95 percent of hospitals, 80 percent of building and other infrastructure, diseases are spreading due to inadequate resources of water, so far, two cases of polio virus have been reported in Gaza. Moreover, refugees crisis, as 2.3 million people have been displaced from North Gaza to South Gaza, has further exacerbated the situation. In this scenario,

vacuum is created, that would be filled by Russia or China. For instance, recent Hamas and Al-fatah reconciliation in China, has conveyed the message that China would back both group in settling post-war humanitarian and refugees crisis. Moreover, Russia would not lag behind to make its sphere of influence in war-affected areas.

Expansion of Hezbollah influence in Syria due to power vacuum in the southern Syria.

In 2022, when Russia started invasion in Ukraine, its thousands of troops were stationed in the Syria that were came in 2016 to consolidate Bashar-Al-Asad regime, were evacuated for the fight against its western borders. This act of Russia create power vacuum in the southern

districts of Syria. The recent attacks of Israel tell that the power vacuum has been filled by Hezbollah. Now, Israel is in the center of axis of resistance that can threaten the very foundation of Israel.

Alliance among pre-conflict rivals which were fighting on the basis of Sunni-Shia hegemony. The Iran-Saudi reconciliation by China in 2023 has broken the ice between two strategic rivals. Moreover, for the first time both parties are on the same page to defend Palestinian cause. Their behaviours towards Israel occupation in Gaza and West-Bank are align. The recent, foreign Minister of Iran, visit to Saudi Arabia discussed two-state solution of Palestine, more over, the denial of air space of Saudi Arabia



to target Iran's military installations ~~by~~ Israel showed that both country want de-escalation and two-state solution for Palestine. Furthermore both countries are planning to conduct naval exercise in Red Sea. These developments show the future alliance of Middle-East to maintain balance of power in the region, as Western Naval presence in Red and Mediterranean sea.

Delays in Saudi-US defence pact is also expected in future. The pact which allows Saudi Arabia to procure more offensive weapon as well as the security to maintain kingship in Saudi Arabia with the chair of leadership of Muslim ummah. However, America has lifted the ban that was imposed on Saudi Arabia in 2021 followed by Saudi-Houthi

conflict that <sup>now</sup> allows Saudi to buy more offensive weapons. This development occurs at a time when both Iran and Saudi initiated talks, the aim of these development to enhance insecurity among Shia dominated states to make US presence in the region possible. However, the defence pact is only possible through recognition of Israel, but Saudi's reluctance is causing delays in the pact. These developments show case that in future the further delays is much possible.

Disruption in trade routes especially Red sea because of Yemeni Houthis presence in the region. The route that carries 12 percent of world total trade that can cause price fluctuation in imports oriented states especially in Asia. Being the proxy of Iran this strikes

on Israel as well as western flagged ship are possible in the near future as the presence of US as well as its western allies in the Red sea could not stop Houthis activities in the region. The Economist report shows that more than 40 percent of ships have been changed <sup>their</sup> ~~its~~ routes to deliver consignments. Moreover, more than 15 cargo ships ~~were~~ came under the attacks of Houthis. These activities would further advance with the increase of Israel atrocities in Gaza.

Two - state solution of Palestine is still debatable because of no changes have been seen till today. The Israel's devastating actions and non-alignment in true talks show that Prime Minister Neten Yaho is not willing to conduct any two state solution of Palestine.

He <sup>has</sup> also denied the United Nation General Assembly resolution of occupation of Israel that emphasizes the pre-1967 border of Palestine.

More over, he declared UN secretary general "Persona Non Grata" after his strong affiliation with the people of Palestine. The statement

of Israel's PM, "The two-state solution is not in our consideration" shows that it is far complicated to execute.

The Western backing of Israel is also making hurdler in the solution.

Proxy wars between Iran and Israel would also possible in the future. Both countries are sceptical towards each other and will counter each other

to maintain balance of power in the region. The Iran's axis

of resistance would not spare

Israel and would conduct border as

well as surgical strikes on each

territories. Both countries are engaged to de-stabilize each other - the attack on Damascus consulate as well as the killing of Ismael Haniyeh in Tehran show the future with full of disputes.

History tells that Israel has been conducting proxy in Iran, it destroyed Iran's two nuclear facilities in 1980s.

Both countries are also involved in gathering and de-coding intelligence information. It would be continued in the future.

Stricter US's policy to keep Iran isolated in the region would be core US foreign Policy in future. The chances of Donald Trump to become President of US have increased and he is more sceptical towards Iran than Biden's administration. The recent election, and the emergence of Reformist party showed some engagement with Western world. However,

the recent attacks have spoiled the opportunity. The Trump regime and his anti-Iran policies would not grow Iran strategically. The 2019 sanctions and withdrawal from JAE JCPOA / PS+1 deal of US by Donald Trump terminating the possibility of any future engagements. The US and its allies will impose stricter regulation on Iran and no one can deny that.

The recent engagements of Middle East's leaders towards ~~the~~ Eastern Powers - Russia and China - show that the future leadership would come under these two powers. These power would also back the future alliance of Iran and Saudi Arabia that help <sup>to</sup> make sphere of influence in the country. Russia has withdrawn all his soldiers from Syria but

possess strong ties with Bashar-Al-Asad regime. The possibility of Civil-Nuclear Deal of Saudi Arabia and China is also emerging with the delays of US-Saudi defence pact. Saudi-Arabia and China have also signed Petro-Yuan Deal in 2023 and presence of Iran in SCO provides opportunity to both China and Russia to emerge as influential players in the region. This conflict, however, gave the birth of ~~uni~~ Multi polar world order.

At the end, the conflict of Middle East provided opportunity to states to change their geo-political landscape. The growing alliance of Saudi and China and emergence of Eastern's leaders as influential players have shifted the balance of power in the region. It is not wrong to say that conflicts are the

reasons behind the shaping of world order with the emergence of new leaders having new visions and strategies to shape current scenarios. Moreover, America has lost the opportunity to defend itself as so called world leader, and China and Russia would not spare this opportunity.