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RWP 059

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Q.7: The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East:

Background Peace in the middle East started collapsing when Hamas responded to the brutality carried out by Israel for decades in the palestinian territories. Through Balfour Declaration of 1917 Jews were given the opportunity to establish a homeland on palestinian territory. In 1948 Israel declared independence which was widely condemned by all the muslims around the world. Arab countries fought many wars with Israel in which Israel captured other areas from the muslim nations particulary after 1967 Arab Israel war. Till now Israel has occupied more than 60% of the total area of palestine. In 1993 West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza were termed as palestinian territories in which is no. East Jerusalem

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and West Bank are governed by Palestinian Liberation Authority while Gaza, before Oct 7th 2023, was under the control of Hamas. Israel has been settling settlers in West Bank and East Jerusalem despite of the illegality of these areas. These two Palestinian cities are still occupied by Israel. There Palestinians are illegally detained, tortured and their properties are taken away by the Israeli apartheid state. They are denied of their fundamental human rights.

Hamas Attack on Israel

In response to ^{the} decades of oppression conducted by Israel, Hamas attacked Israel on Oct 7, 2023 by means of air and by land. Nearly 2000 Hamas fighters entered Israel from Gaza breaking the the border fences. Secondly, Hamas fired ~~5000~~ missiles into Israelⁱⁿ which most of missiles were intercepted by the Israeli defense system "Iron Dome" while some of them hit

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13 cities across Israel along including the capital Tel Aviv. In the attacks, approximately 1400 individuals were killed and 240 were made captives and were brought to Gaza.

Israeli war crimes in Gaza

After Oct 7 attacks Israel in the name of self defence started indiscriminate aerial strikes on Gaza. These strikes were then added with the use of artilleries and tanks, along with thousands of Israeli soldiers. Civilian buildings, hospitals and places of worship were particularly targeted by Israeli tanks and missiles. Northern and central Gaza has ^{is been} completely destroyed in terms of hospital, infrastructure, agriculture and homes. Till now more than 45,000 people have been slaughtered by Israel.

Along with this, Israel has used white phosphorus which contributed to kill many, ^{at the} inception of war, white phosphorus is globally banned by the UN. Similarly, Israel has stopped supply

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of food, water, medicine and other commodities into Gaza, making the situation more worse.

Western Response:

While the majority of world nations are calling for ceasefire in Gaza and demanding arm embargos on Israel, the western countries are completely towards the catastrophic situation in Gaza. The so called champion of human rights, America has expressed its support to Israel along with \$3 billion aid in the form of weapons and other \$13 billion approved by the congress for Israel. Similarly, UK, Germany, Japan, Canada and France has expressed the support for Israel.

Role of ICJ and ICC:

A genocidal case was filed by South Africa against Israel in ICJ. It was supported by some other muslim countries. ICJ, all conclusion called Israel to stop its war on Gaza. Also, ICC prosecutor General has issued arrest

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Warrents for Israeli PM ^{ex-} Netanyahu and Israeli defence minister along with Hamas leadership for their war crimes. (5)

Beneficiaries of the Israel-Hamas war:

~~Iran~~ Iran as the major beneficiary of Israel-Hamas war:

From the ongoing war is the middle East, Iran has emerged the major beneficiary. by the ways;

1- Restoration of Relations with the Arab World;

Israel-Hamas war contributed to reestablish Arab-Iran relations. In 2023, M. Bin Salman of Saudi Arabia invited Iranian president Ibrahim Raisi to attend a conference in Riyadh, held in the wake of Gaza conflict.

Before that, with the help of China both countries restored their diplomatic relations and the same was done by GCC countries.

2- Restoration of Image in the Arab World;

The stance of Iran enjoys

full support by the all the muslims across the world which is helping Iran to lead the muslim worlds.

3- Iran's Strategic dominance

Iran has been giving Israel a tough time through its proxies such as Hizbullah in Lebanon, Houthies in Yemen and Assad regime (in Syria, which has now collapsed).

II- China as the beneficiary of Hamas-Israel war

Due to the ongoing wars on two fronts, USA is busy in supporting its allies i.e. Hamas-Israel war and Russia-Ukraine war. China has a fair play ground to enhance its relations with the world especially the Arab countries. It is because USA is complicit in the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. Similarly China has to improve its economy as it is not funding costly wars like USA. Therefore, it can dominate USA in economy.

III - Russia as the beneficiary of Hamas-Israel war;

Hamas-Israel war has put USA into a extreme difficult situation. American's attention has somehow diverted from the Ukraine war. Along with this it has now to fund Israel too along with Ukraine. On the other hand, China and Russia are coming closer in terms of trade.

Losers of Hamas-Israel war

1- Israel as a major loser

The first thing in which Israel can be termed as loser is security lapses. Hamas fighter crossed the borders and entered into Israel with being resisted. Then, 13 major cities were targeted by the missiles fired by Hamas but which is a question mark on the Israeli defence system. Moreover, Israel has committed war crimes which were went viral on social media platforms.

, demotioning Israel image and support around the world. Also, their is chaos in Israel as some of the Hamas hostages has not been released.

II- USA as the leader in Hamas-Israel war

USA is losing it's place at the world stage, where it named herself as champion of the human rights. There has been wide spread protests across USA by different human rights organizations and student, which demand USA to stop supporting Israel. Along with this china is enhancing it's role as peacemakers and is calling for ceasefire in Gaza. Also, china has been establishing strong trade relations with Russia and Middle East, posing a serious threat for us hegemony.

Conclusion

Decades of oppression by Israel of the palestinians has

Given spark to complice ^Q
 in middle east. Israel's
 response to act 7 attacks
 is too harsh and barbaric
 which has been termed as
 genocide by most of
 the world. This war
 has demanished the image
 of both Israel and USA
 as USA has remained
 complicit in it. On the
 other hand Iran has been
 emerged as beneficiary of
 it restored relations with
 the Arab nation. China
 and Russia are are
 gaining advantages from the
 diverted attention of
 USA.

Q.2

The fall of Assad Regime in Syria

Assad family has
 ruled Syria for 50 years.
 Bashar ul Assad had been
 ruling Syria since 2001.
 During Arab Spring in 2011
 most of the dictatorships in
 the middle east were
 topple down. such as Tunisia,
 Libya and Egypt. Bashar

ul Assad, a Shia dictator of
Sunni majority Syria was also
facing revolutionary groups
within the Syria. As, Arab
Spring was glorified by
the USA, Russia and Iran
came to help Assad for
the own strategic reasons.
They helped Assad with
fighter jets, missiles and
even through military
brigade to crush the
revolutionaries. Assad, Russia
and Iran every form of
force and maintain the
to survive. In fight with
revolutionaries Russia and
Assad also use chemical
weapons were resulted in
killing of thousand civilians.
Assad regime was widely
criticized for its human
rights violations.

In early Dec, 2024, Hayat
al Tehrik Al Shama captured
Applo and other city of
Syria giving a see back
to the regime. In 8 Dec,
2024, HTS captured Damascus,
capital of Syria marking
an end to the
Assad's family 50 years

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Reasons of the fall of Assad Regime in Syria

Some of the major reasons of the fall of Assad regime in Syria are the following:

1- Lack of Support of Russia and Iran

One of the primary reasons of the regime fall in Syria was the lack of Iran and Russia support. Russia was busy at the Ukrainian front, where the war is turning heavy. The US president Joe Biden has allowed Ukraine to use long range ballistic missile against Russia while Russia has reviewed its nuclear doctrine. This shows that Russia-Ukraine war is going crazy. On the other hand, Iran is trying to manage the Israel's assault on Gaza by supporting its proxies across the middle east. Both Iran and Israel also engaged in direct attacks on each

others' territories. Therefore, Russia and Iran could not help Assad regime to stand.

2- Turkey Support to HTS:

Turkey has played significant role in the collapse of Assad regime. They supported HTS in order to counter threats from Kurdish fighters who are aspiring for independence of Kurdish minorities in Turkey and other Arab countries. So, to protect its integrity, Turkey provided support to HTS which is headed by Abu Muhammad Al-Holani, to fight against Assad's regime. The president-elect of USA, D. Trump, also called Turkey behind this unprecedented change in Syria and termed president of Turkey as "a smart guy".

Implications:

1- Weakened Iran's axis of resistance

Iran was enjoying strategic benefit over its arch rival, Israel due to the presence

of tree major resisting power in the region. (Hezbollah, Houthis and Assad Regime) But Iran has faced a set back in its strategic dominance over Israel with the fall of Assad regime and with the take over of a sunni led organization HTS.

2- Russia lost its ally in Middle East

Along with Iran, Russia had a strong ally in the middle East that was Assad. Most of the middle East is dominated by USA, therefore, it's is a strategic loss for Syria in the middle East.

3- Relief to Israel and the West

Assad fall has proved ~~beneficial~~ relief for Israel and the western countries, particularly USA and UK. Israel was facing security threats from Assad led Syria as Iran was operating its military basis from their to counter and threaten Israel.

along with Hizbullah, Hamas and Hutaries. But, this threat has now gone. Israel has entered its tanks to Syria and has stricked military facilities across the Syria; after the fall of Assad regime. It is conducting strikes in Syria in the name of preemptive actions.

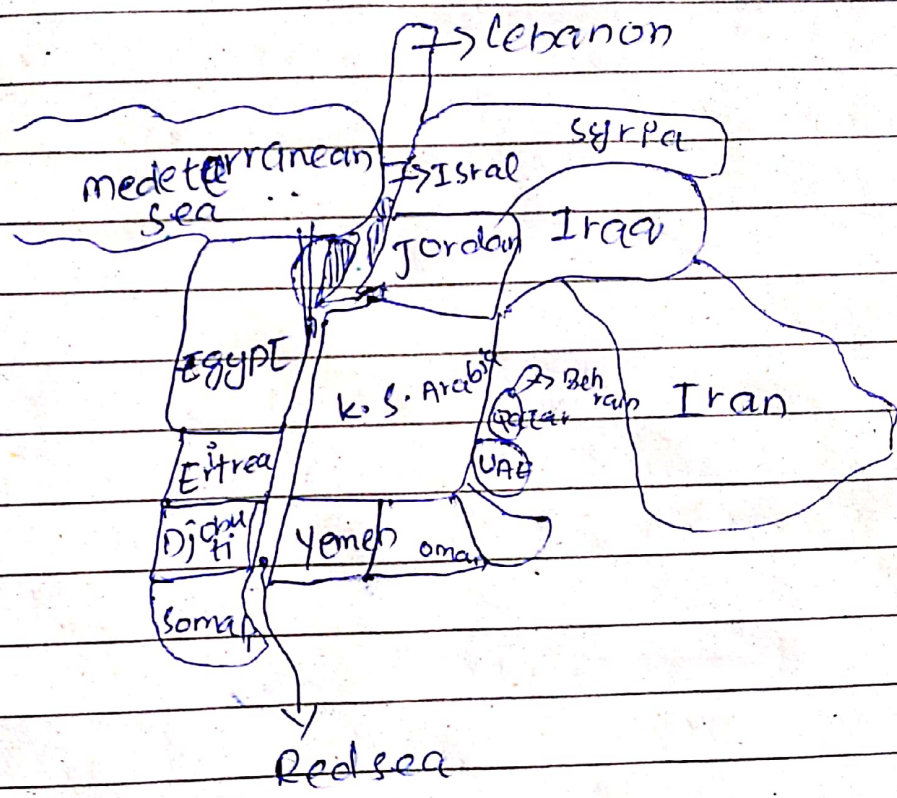
On the other hand USA and UK were providing support to the rebels in Syria who were operating against Assad. They were doing so to counter Russia and Iran's influence in the middle East.

Conclusion;

Syrians are celebrating the fall of the regime and videos on social media are going viral across the world about the human rights violations committed by Assad regime inside the prisons. The Syrians are hoping for peace now but it seems impossible as

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Israel is now conducting strikes across Syria



Middle East