

# Topic: Self-righteousness and Conflicts in the global Arena.

## Outline

### 1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Concept of self-righteousness is the notion constructed by powerful to make every unlawful thing legal. This notion holds very importance in global arena to protect the vested interests of powerful nations. In global arena there is no concept of equity before law, world needs strong reforms to create equity for all.

### 2. Concept of self-righteousness and global conflicts

### 3. Self-righteousness, a traditional notion of powerful.

- a- Poor and weak always die two deaths. (an actual death and before the law)
- b powerful have right to spoil the environment e.g Global Warming.
- c Powerful have every right to quell the innocents under the guise of self-righteousness, e.g. Japan, Vietnam.
- d Under the guise of self-righteousness powerful can invent modern technologies to suppress the weak.

4 Conflicts in global arena under the guise of self-righteousness.

a Constructivism, an approach to set the narrative against the weaker or rightful party.

b Conflict of ideas and linking the concept of righteousness with ideas

c Conflicts of economic supremacy, using the notion of self-righteous to deceive and dominate others.

d Russia-Ukraine conflict and constructivism of self-righteousness

e Israel and Hamas conflict, two opposite narratives using the notion of self-righteousness.

5 Methods to create the peaceful world and ensuring rule of law.

a Strong measures to strengthen the international law

b Strengthening the United Nations organization and reforms to change its structure

c Ensuring the rule of liberalism and neo-liberalism to close trade barriers

d Ensuring global disarmament, nuclear disarmament and Arms control agreements.

e Human Rights protection and humanitarian protection laws, to minimize the civilian sufferings.

f Controlling climate change, implementation of no combustion of fossil fuels

c Conclusion

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According to Allama Iqbal, the national poet of Pakistan, weakness is a crime punishable by death." He defined weak has no other option but to give in before the superior authority. Superior on the other hand has always used the notion of self righteousness to defend his right to subjugate the weak. This concept of self righteousness has been used to defend the illegal actions of powerful. Under the guise of self righteousness powerful is continuously spoiling the environment, dropping nuclear bombs and waging unnecessary wars. Under the guise of self righteousness, powerful constructs the 'ideas' that suits their vested interests. In order to create supremacy of laws and equity in the world, it is necessary to promulgate the rules of international law with full vigour and spirit. Furthermore, it is essential to bring some reforms into international

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law making institutions, along with the promotion of liberalism to minimize the trade barriers. So in a nutshell, the concept of self righteousness is the notion constructed by powerful to make every unlawful thing legal. This notion holds very importance in international arena to protect the vested interests of powerful. Strong reforms and measures are required to bring harmony in the world.

Since the beginning of time, there is a concept of self righteousness. Every individual believe in himself as morally and legally correct. However, powerful have exploited this notion to subjugate the weak. In the beginning of time, dinosaurs have taught this lesson of survival of fittest to human beings. Since then one who is powerful is legally right and weak is legally and morally corrupt.

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Poor and weak always die two deaths. Because poor suffers from all the social evils created by powerful. Best example of this is Highland Clearances case (18-19 centuries) during this period many landlords in the Scottish society forcibly removed poor from their homes. Politically affiliated elites had significant economic power, faced little to no legal consequences for their action. This example demonstrates that poor suffers in every walk of life and die two deaths.

Moreover, powerful have exploited the resources of earth for their vested interest. Powerful are busy spoiling the basic fabric of earth's ecosystem and leaving no stone unturned to contribute in the global warming. Powerful countries such as the USA, the UK, China, India, etc are major contributors in global warming. As a consequence of their actions poor countries are suffering, have no or least contribution in global warming. Leader like President Trump

withdrew from Paris Climate Agreement<sup>7</sup> and expanded the use of fossil fuel for the industrial production. He once quoted "We have unleashed a revolution in American energy - the USA is now the number 1 producer of oil and natural gas anywhere in the world". Such statement is a valid proof to conclude that powerfuls are using the self righteousness for their national interest.

Besides this, the concept of self righteousness is exploited by powerful nations to quell the innocent human beings. History is full of examples how powerfuls have subjugated poor nations under the guise of self-righteousness. The atrocities of European colonizers on their colonies are overt. The use of agent orange by American fertilizer company in Vietnam during Vietnam war was the clear violation of humanitarian law. Interestingly, using of Little Boy and Fat Man on Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively by America under the guise of self righteousness is yet another

example of brutal atrocities.

In addition to this, self righteousness has been wrongly used by powerful ~~us~~ to protect their interest. In connection with the usage of atomic power, powerful countries have acquired nuclear arms and made it legal for the powerful five countries and those powerful nations disallow other countries to have this technology and technologies related to it. To summarize powerful ~~s~~ have made their own rules, those rules help them to retain their supremacy and keep the poor under check.

Let's take example of global conflicts under the guise of self righteousness. Powerful nations use constructivism to set a narrative in front of the world. Powerful nations justify their actions against rightful and weaker parties. This approach involves crafting a narrative that portrays the powerful actor as morally right and weaker party deserving of



of its fate. Best example in this regard is colonial discourse, which was way of representing and justifying the domination of the colonized peoples by the European powers. Another example in this regard is American constructivism approach to make Saddam Hussain an evil, tyrant and one who will destroy the USA and her allies. These examples highlight how powerful entities have employed self-righteous narratives to shape narratives in their favours.

The self righteousness embedded in ——— ideologies often becomes a source of tension between the nations. The conflict of ideas particularly in the context of communism and capitalism is a profound aspect of global history. In contemporary there is ideological competition between two economical giants China and USA. China a socialist society emphasizes collective well-being, social equality and state led development. In contrast USA, under

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the banner of capitalism, promotes individual freedom, private enterprises and free-market dynamics. Both systems claiming to be righteous and superior, such conflict of interest had created a cold war (1947-1991) that cold war became the reason for multiple wars in the world. Recent conflict of ideologies under the guise of self-righteousness could also become a cause of another cold war between China and USA.

In addition to ideological supremacy there is conflict of economic supremacy, fueled by the notion of self-righteousness. Nations often employ a sense of moral superiority to legitimize their pursuit of economic dominance. This can be seen in wider perspective of India, China, USA and Russia, these countries have different economic models, goals and strategies and they compete for

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resource markets and influence in  
in global arena. The trade war bet-  
ween USA - China is best example  
of self-righteousness in this regard  
because imposing tariffs and ~~the~~  
sanctions on each other's goods and  
services and accusing each other  
of unfair trade practices, such as  
currency manipulation, intellectual pro-  
perty theft and technology transfer,  
protectionism policies and meddling  
in internal affairs of each other, are  
tactics to undermine each other and  
proofing themselves as right and fair.

Besides, the conflict of ideolo-  
gies and economic supremacy, world  
is also witnessing the battles and  
wars under the guise of self right-  
eousness. This self-righteous framing  
serves to legitimize actions that defy  
the international norms, presenting  
Russia as a defender of its people.  
On the other hand Ukraine frames  
its resistance to influence as a

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Struggle for democracy, sovereignty and integrity. Both sides construct narratives of righteousness portraying themselves as defenders of their values. It has become a clash of self righteousness.

In a same context, the conflict between Israel and Palestine is also marked by two starkly contrasting narratives, each grounded in a sense of self-righteousness. This conflict is a violent and protracted struggle that has claimed thousands of lives. Both sides claim to act in self defence and to have moral high ground. Israel points to its commitments of self defence against the rockets launched by Hamas. On the contrary, Hamas' fight is for the Palestinian rights and against Israeli occupation. As Israel is a powerful ally of West and Palestine is a weaker state, the narrative of Israel is being accepted right and just.

World is in need of reforms and strong measures to bring the peace and harmony in the world. For that matter there is dire need to strengthen the international law. Strengthening of international law is imperative to move beyond the self-righteous approach that exacerbates conflicts. Implementing robust measures including swift and impartial just system for violators, prioritizing the diplomacy, dialogue and mediation over confrontation. This approach can mitigate conflicts and uphold the shared commitment, of principles and equality.

Furthermore, world is in dire need to bring reforms to international peace keeping institution i.e. UNO. UNO needs comprehensive reforms to mitigate this self-righteous approach from international arena. To enhance its effectiveness reforms should address the issue of representation, decision-

making and resource collection. Ensuring more equitable distribution of power among member states can prevent the self-righteous stance by any dominant entity. Furthermore, measures for greater accountability and transparency within the UNO's operation can contribute in a more unbiased and impartial institutions. These measures in UNO can bring harmony and peace in world.

Besides reforms, it is also important to ensure the rule of liberalism or neo-liberalism in world. This strategy is aimed at closing the trade barriers and creating inclusivity in the world. The principle of liberalism brings free markets, open trade and economic interdependence. Increased economic cooperation can lead to mutual benefits and reduced likelihood of conflicts. This perspective aims to counteract self-righteousness tendencies by promoting collaboration and shared prosperity on global scale.

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• Apart from liberal order, world also needs disarmament agreements and arms control agreements. Embracing the disarmament efforts help to mitigate the risks of conflicts escalation and promotes a more cooperative international environment. Dismantling of nuclear armaments will create a trust and reduce the perceived threat landscape. Multilateral agreements on disarmament fosters a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to collective security. This approach aims to bypass the self-righteousness tendencies of the world.

In continuation, it is also necessary to have humanitarian laws and human rights acts to mitigate this method of self-righteousness from the world. Implementation of such laws will play an important role in minimizing the civilian sufferings during conflicts and war. Embracing humanitarian laws demonstrate the commitment of shared

belief in intrinsic worth of every individual. This is a only viable option to create a more humane and just world, challenging the self righteous postures that can contribute to unnecessary sufferings during times of conflict.

In order to make just world there should be laws for all countries to follow, big and small. In a same way controlling of climate change demands a collective commitment to sustainable practices and a departure from the self-righteous approach that perpetuates environmental degradation. One crucial step is the stringent implementation of policies aimed at ending the combustion of fossil fuels. This is vital for creating an equitable and just society where both affluent and poorer nations share equal dignity in their right to a sustainable environment. Fossil



By eliminating the approach of self-righteousness in the crisis of global warming will make powerful nations to take collaborative efforts for renewable energy adoption, reforestation and carbon capture technologies. It will be a paramount effort for ensuring sustainable future for all.

In conclusion, the pervasive influence of self-righteousness in global conflicts underscores the urgent need for a paradigm shift towards cooperation, empathy and shared responsibility. The examples discussed in this attempt reveal the destructive potential of narrow minded self-righteous perspectives. To foster a more harmonious world, it is essential embrace humanity, and mutual respect, recognizing the detrimental consequences of self-righteous stance that often perpetuates injustice and exacerbates conflicts.