

Q no. (2)

The recent Iran-Israel war was a watershed moment in middle eastern and global power politics and dynamics. The US jumping in the war on Israel's side to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities shifted explicit and tacit sanctity of such facilities, strengthened alliances, emboldened major international actors like Russia and China, and increased the chances of new nuclear powers emerging with their support.

① Shifting status of nuclear sites:

The US joining Israel in attacking Iran's nuclear sites is a new epoch in modern warfare. The status and sanctity of such sites, over the years, has been of a "hands off approach". However, the recent adventures against Iran may have made nuclear facilities a fair game in war. US and the western world criticized Russia heavily when its attacks damaged Ukraine's biggest nuclear power plant. Similarly, Pakistan's and India's agreement on not attacking each others nuclear facilities is supported by major powers like the US, Russia and

China. Therefore, with such joint and overt aggression against Iran's nuclear sites, is shifting the status of nuclear sites in the context of the US, Russia and China in the age of modern warfare.

② Increasing military cooperation:

Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza has been supported militarily by the US reliably and consistently. However, the joint operation against Iran by the US and Israel highlights an ~~up~~ upgradation of military ties and cooperation. Furthermore, Iran's aging airforce and ^{ineffective} air defence capabilities were highlighted in the recent war. Iran may ~~even~~ start strengthening these weakness in cooperation with Russia and China.

③ Strengthening Iran's nuclear program:

Both the US and Israel claim that their operation against Iran was to destroy its capabilities of producing a nuclear weapon. However, US intelligence and independent reports suggest Iran's nuclear program has only been set back by a few months. Furthermore, Iran is not further emboldened to pursue its

nuclear program and may now do so with the help of Russia and China.

④ Formation of a new nuclear regulatory body:

Iran has recently, and over the years, made multiple allegations against "International Atomic Energy ^{Agency} ~~Commission~~ (IAEA)" of impartiality, sabotage and espionage. Now, Iran may completely stop any future compliance with the nuclear watchdog and another such agency may be formed under the auspices of China, Russia, Iran and others.

⑤ Proliferation of nuclear capabilities:

Seeing the aggressive posture of the US along with Israel to destroy Iran's nuclear program, other ~~nations~~ nations in the global arena may start to consider a nuclear defence of their own. Therefore, a seemingly "noble" operation to stop nuclear proliferation may have the opposite results. Such new wave of proliferation may be supported ^{financi} ~~economically~~, diplomatically, politically, ideologically and technologically by China and Russia.

⑥ Concession to Russia in Ukraine:

Russia's role and attitude during Iran-Israel conflict came to the fore. Russian response to US and Israeli aggression against Iran was subdued and belated. It could be pointed out that Trump administration may be seeking an end to the Ukrainian conflict by trying to woo Russia and snub Ukraine. Therefore, such Russian positioning after the US bombing of Iran may stem from its own military and territorial interests in Ukraine.

⑦ Emboldening of China:

During the Iran-Israel war, it was highlighted that Iran's main and most fortified nuclear site, Fordow, could only be destroyed by American bunker buster bombs and B52 bombers. Hence, Israel persuaded the US to jump in the conflict. Furthermore, these US warplanes flew thousands of miles from mainland US during the operation. These US capabilities and boldness may worry China, who could further strengthen and fortify its position in the South China Sea and prevent Taiwan to be used as a logistical and staging post in case of a

future conflict

Q no. (8)

Over the recent past, there has been a resurgence of bloc politics on the global stage. With this resurgence, relations between China and Russia have developed and strengthened over the years. From trade, diplomacy, security and a new global financial order, the relations between the two nations have developed positively.

⇒ Russia-China growing relations:

① Trade and BRI:

Russia and China have become important trading partners over the years. Both nations find a suitable and lucrative market in the other for their exports. Furthermore, Russia is an important part of China's "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)" and the "Maritime Silk Route." Due to climate change, the polar ice caps are melting and the "Northern Sea Route (NSR)" is becoming a feasible option as an alternate route to Europe and beyond. Russia and China are actively pursuing and developing this new shipping route in collaboration for future use.

~~Mutual~~

② Diplomatic backing:

Not only Russia and China are strengthening their trade relations, but also their diplomatic ones. Both support each other on the diplomatic front on their respective international interests and affairs. This is evident from the fact that China has supported Russia on the Ukrainian conflict many a times, and similarly Russia has backed China in condemning the US against its trade war with China.

③ New financial world order:

Russia and China, along with Brazil, India and South Africa are spearheading a new alliance that intends to create a new financial world order. Such a global system could not be used as an economic weapon and would be decentralized to prevent any hegemonic designs. This alignment between Russia and China on the future of global financial and trade system indicates a very strong sense of cooperation and alliance.

⇒ Implications on global power politics

① Decentralization of global power politics:

Unlike the western world led by the US, both Russia and China are doing away with the mentality and approach of the Cold War era. Both seek a future world order that is based on mutual trust and cooperation rather than a polarized one. Both nations are collaborating to realize their shared vision through their global outlooks and institutions like BRICS.

② Shifting dynamics in the middle east:

The recent Iran-Israel war, Israeli genocide in Gaza and the Syrian regime change, all present a test case for Russia-China relations and global power politics. Both nations have played the cauldron of the ^Middle ^East carefully and skillfully. Both have condemned aggression where it needed to be condemned and supported international laws. This presents a conundrum for the Western world which touts these self-developed principles but is failing to see them through in the ^Middle East.

③ Peace in Ukraine:

The Ukrainian conflict has been a major test case for Russia-China conflict. During the conflict, China has supported Russia's justifications for its operation in Ukraine and has consistently urged for a dialogue to end the conflict. China has presented itself as a mediator and laid out peace plans for the conflict. However, the western world has consistently fanned the flames and taken no steps for peace. This presents a major shift ~~to~~ towards dialogue and diplomacy in global politics vis-a-vis Russia-China relations.

④ Normalizing Afghanistan:

The West has sanctioned, admonished and tried to isolate Afghanistan ever since the US withdrawal in 2021. In contrast, China and Russia have consistently tried to make sure Afghanistan's inclusion in the global arena and its political, financial and social rebuilding. China has been trying to include Afghanistan into CPEC, whereas Russia recently became the first country to recognize the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. Both nations reiterate the importance of

Afghanistan in ~~the~~ geo-politics and are trying to leverage it for the benefit of the region.

In conclusion, China-Russia relations have grown, evolved, deepened and strengthened over the recent years. Their diplomatic, financial and political alliance is having major implications of global power politics in terms of peace, security, conflict and trade.