

ANALYSIS OF THE AMERICAN ACTION PLAN FOR A NEW MIDDLE EAST

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The expressions of the United States in West Asia appear complex and inexplicable to many mainly because the underlying motivations are not clear, while the dynamic situation among diplomats and ground realities among dozens of countries makes information gathering quite onerous. Thus, the narrative that the United States presents is often discrepant, and many of its actions cryptic, not that there is any common law that precludes quiet behaviour and quiet diplomacy. But, this makes it hard to believe that the United States really wants the outcomes in the Middle East that it publicly proclaims. As masters in the art of prevarication and war, owing to their massive economic and military prowess, the Americans' real intent is likely hidden from the public eye, and the truth is different from what it seems or what the media reports. Interestingly, though, this is somewhat consistent with the Chanakya and Machiavelli styles of managing security.^{1,2}

On the face of it, the United States is anti-Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), but many of the actions of the ISIS are those that the United States

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1. Akhilesh Pillalamarri, "Chanakya: India's Truly Radical Machiavelli," *The National Interest*, January 29, 2015, available at: <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/chanakya-indias-truly-radical-machiavelli-12146>.
2. Ibid. Though Max Weber wrote – and Henry Kissinger agreed – that compared to the *Arthashastra*, *The Prince* was "harmless."

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supports and desires, and benefits from. For instance, creating a bulwark against Iraqi Shias who side with Iran; and fighting Syria's Assad who is a Russian protégé, and, as an Alawite, belongs to a sect of Shia Islam;³ and quietly backstabbing Saudi Arabia that a vast majority of the legislators in Washington DC don't like.⁴ That Congress mustered enough votes to override President Obama's veto of the 9/11 Bill that allows US citizens to sue Saudi Arabia speaks volumes of the sentiments of US lawmakers and citizens.⁵ But, it also reveals how removed

President Obama may have steered from mainstream USA: like the fact that he made sudden visits to Saudi Arabia, including one when he cut short his visit to India, even while it was reported that King Salman snubbed him during his visit to Saudi Arabia of April 2016.^{6,7}

After deciding to prematurely withdraw from Iraq without completing the work of subjugation and the total disarming of the Baathist military elements, against the advice of senators such as John McCain, a political opponent, President Obama might have fulfilled a naive election promise arising from a poor grasp of *realpolitik*, as alleged by numerous critics and military advisers. But, under no circumstances does it appear that the US intends to let Shias dominate Iraq, because that would make the Shia Iran powerful, against US interests. Thus, the reading of US intelligence services that Iraqi Sunnis could be pitted against Iraqi Shias to keep Iraq perpetually destabilised

3. Which partly explains why Iran's extremist mullahs support Assad.

4. "Congress Passes Saudi 9/11 Lawsuits Bill," *BBC News*, September 9, 2016, available at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-37310593>.

5. Karoun Demirjian and Juliet Eilperin, "Congress Overrides Obama's Veto of 9/11 Bill," *The Washington Post*, September 28, 2016, available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2016/09/27/senate-poised-to-vote-to-override-obamas-veto-of-911-bill/>.

6. "Obama to Cut Short India Trip to Visit Saudi Arabia," *LA Times*, January 24, 2015, available at: <http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-obama-india-trip-20150124-story.html>.

7. Adam Edelman, "President Obama Begins Saudi Arabia Trip with Snub by King Salman, as Activists Unearth more Evidence of Saudi Links to 9/11," *New York Daily News*, April 20, 2016, available at: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/president-obama-snubbed-saudi-arabia-trip-king-salman-article-1.2609081>.

plays right into the hands of conceivable US plans, schemes, and intentions.⁸ To help in this, the former elements of Saddam Hussein's diehard army from Tibriz and nearby Sunni locations were still intact. Bring to them a leader such as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and a strong enough army can be created that will fight Iraqi Shias and keep Iraq undermined for a very long time. By inductive reasoning, the plan was well thought out and deliberated.

THE PECULIAR AL-BAGHDADI

Indeed, it begs suspicion why the US released Al-Baghdadi after interning him in Guantanamo after capturing him outside Fallujah in 2004. Though he was classified as a "low-level prisoner" to be eventually released, such disinformation strategies are common among intelligence agencies. For example, imprisoned criminals are often used for behind-the-lines enemy actions and counter-intelligence operations as a condition of their release and reversal of conviction, with the releasing government warning the criminal that he would be disavowed if ever caught. For instance, this happened at least in part in the case of the Mumbai terrorists when Pakistan refused to even admit they were Pakistani citizens.⁹

Al-Baghdadi was a perfect protégé of the US to forge in Iraq what the US wanted: a Sunni Muslim militia. As it is, the US Army had close contacts with Sunni insurgents, particularly after the Fallujah operations during Gulf War II where the two sides got to know each other during the negotiation

Ironically, Kuwaiti donors have also backed the ISIS and the remnants of Iraq's Baathist regime, believing that the Shia forces are really the greater enemy. The poor and oppressed Kurds would have to be sacrificed yet once again, as Al-Baghdadi's forces were enabled to capture the Kurdish oilfields of Ajil, Hamrin, Najamah, and Al Qayyarah, providing them an enhanced flow of income.

8. Joseph Micallef, "Death to America: Shia-Sunni Rivalry and the Realignment of the Middle East," *Huffington Post*, April 23, 2015, available at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-micallef/death-to-america-shia-sun_b_6726458.html.

9. Sebastian Rotella, "Mumbai Attacks Renew Questions About Pakistan's Crackdown on Militants," *ProPublica*, July 13, 2011, available at: <http://www.propublica.org/article/mumbai-attacks-renew-questions-about-pakistans-crackdown-on-militants>.

periods, which resulted in the US eventually leaving Fallujah alone. Not only that, but with his clerical background, Al-Baghdadi easily garnered respect from among the Sunnis. Thus, foisting Al-Baghdadi on Iraq was a perfect secret plan that had the bells of success ringing.

THE IMPACT OF SAUDI AND GULF FUNDING

To this plan was easily added the Saudi Arabian money to enable Al-Baghdadi to roam with impunity. The Saudis are always willing to play alongside the US, mainly because that's what they can do best, not having any impressive military prowess, demonstrated, in part, by their poor military performance in Yemen, a militarily weak country, while Saudi Arabia has modern weapons and gadgetry. American intelligence had reason to sell the broad strategy to Saudi Arabia and Saudi donors by saying that Al-Baghdadi would fight Shia elements in Iraq and Syria to check Iranian power growth and help in toppling Assad. Thus, a weakened and exhausted Middle East was ensured by this strategy. Consequently, and whatever the precursors, Saudi Arabia funnelled \$2 million a month to Baghdadi's ISIS, mostly to pay for fighters (\$500 a month) and commanders (\$1,200 a month).¹⁰ Ironically, Kuwaiti donors have also backed the ISIS and the remnants of Iraq's Baathist regime, believing that the Shia forces are really the greater enemy.¹¹ The poor and oppressed Kurds would have to be sacrificed yet once again, as Al-Baghdadi's forces were enabled to capture the Kurdish oilfields of Ajil, Hamrin, Najamah, and Al Qayyarah, providing them an enhanced flow of income.¹² It wasn't till the ISIS let loose its anger at the Saudi monarchy that Saudi Arabia was compelled to see the light of day, and so withdrew the funding.¹³ But by then, the damage had been

10. "Rand Paul: Punish those who Fund ISIS," *TIME*, November 17, 2015, available at: <http://time.com/4116601/paris-attacks-rand-paul/>.
11. Josh Rogin, "America's Allies Are Funding ISIS," *The Daily Beast*, June 14, 2014, available at: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/06/14/america-s-allies-are-funding-isis.html>.
12. Fazel Hawramy, Shalaw Mohammed, and Luke Harding, "Inside Islamic State's Oil Empire: How Captured Oilfields Fuel ISIS Insurgency," *The Guardian*, November 19, 2014, available at: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/19/-sp-islamic-state-oil-empire-iraq-isis>.
13. Lori Plotkin Boghardt, "Saudi Funding of ISIS," The Washington Institute, June 23, 2014, available at: <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/saudi-funding-of-isis>.

done, and the ISIS had entrenched itself in its nouveau caliphate.

US, ISIS, AL QAEDA AND THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

How can anyone ever think that the US can't retake the oilfields that the ISIS has captured? The rag-tag militia of the ISIS, just about 10-12,000 militiamen strong, is easy game for the US to take out. But, it is noteworthy that the US has not done so. Recall that Obama withdrew all US forces from Iraq, probably with the hope that the Arabs would do the fighting for them. All the while after 2011, the US assisted the Iraqi government

with training and limited armaments, then sent in a small force to "show" to the world they were really anti-terrorist and anti-ISIS, when, in fact, they had likely groomed the terrorists in the first place. The advantage of this was that Al-Baghdadi could damage the West Asian countries, such that their future opportunity to exercise power would be curtailed. The US was demonstrating its skills of riding two horses at the same time. But, with its military, diplomatic, and economic power, the US could easily afford to do so. The proof was in the pudding, and the compass swings again and again to point to the USA. However, the US has now very craftily forged a coalition of the Sunni dominated countries.

The ISIS is also openly against the Muslim Brotherhood, who they consider apostates. This partly explains why Turkey is anti-ISIS and does not really wish to topple Assad, because the present Turkish government is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, while the Egyptian dictatorship, which considers the Muslim Brotherhood as a scourge, wishes to fight the ISIS. All

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this helps the USA in two ways. In Egypt, it helps the US get Al-Sistini's support to fight the ISIS. In Turkey, it puts the screws on Erdogan's regime, which has been the most anti-USA in its rhetoric, and makes it difficult for the USA to operate militarily out of Turkey in West Asia.¹⁴

Ironically, inasmuch as the US claims to fight Al Qaeda, its secret support of the ISIS puts the lie to its words. The ISIS has openly claimed to have succeeded from Al Qaeda.¹⁵ Hence, the whole world is bewildered at how the USA has adroitly allowed the ISIS to thrive while claiming otherwise in public, its intentions to destroy Al Qaeda. The complexities can only be resolved and understood when it is accepted that the USA will first start the fire and let it rage, and then come in to extinguish it. That is to say, that by so doing, the US would have achieved its aims. This is not an easy road to traverse, but the US has handled tougher opponents before.

USA's SECRET INTENTIONS

The USA's secret intentions are scarcely to see peace in West Asia and the Middle East, in general—but to see turmoil, instead. This is understandable, and perhaps respectable, given the troubles that have been brought upon the United States by this region. It is frequently philosophically and arguably better to crush an enemy or perceived enemy rather than let it regroup and grow, even if covert methods must be used.

Correspondingly, the thinking in the US may be that is better to have the Middle Easterners fight each other rather than fight the United States. And so, the region, like flies to honey and moths to a flame, has apparently fallen hook, line, and sinker for the US ploys and deceptions, not that the USA leaves it with multiple choices, being the great power it is. Therefore, to the discredit of the regional leaders, they have failed to realise that they are no match for the US, in not only military and economic power, but also in wiliness and duplicity. But, in so doing, the US is preserving solely its own interests, and no country or individual has a viable argument against that philosophy of self-preservation. At times, spying and lying are matters of survival, not to

14. Graeme Wood, "What ISIS Really Wants," *The Atlantic*, March 2015, available at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/03/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>.

15. Ibid.

mention state policy, and the US was obviously pushed to the limit of tolerance with 9/11 when the Middle Easterners brought down the wrath of the US on themselves, much like taunting a hornet's nest. Or was that Al Qaeda's plan in the first place – to topple monarchies in the Middle East by bringing in the USA to do the dirty work it did not have the wherewithal for?

For obvious reasons, the US has many enemies in the Middle East, especially for its support of Israel through its 1956, 1967, and 1973 Wars against the Arabs, which is hardly a moral offence. Remember, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) blew up airplanes in the Jordanian desert in 1970, after prominently retaining six American hostages. The famous 1979 drama of the takeover of the American Embassy in Tehran infuriated the US immensely, and it still feels that its revenge against Iran is incomplete. Though the US prompted Saddam Hussein to invade Iran, Saddam's operations were ineffective in the end. After weak signals were sent by US Ambassador April Glaspie, Saddam mustered the courage to invade Kuwait, which brought US forces into direct confrontation with Iraq, since the US was committed to the defence of Kuwait as a consequence of the Iran-Iraq War, not to mention reports that Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and UAE paid the US for that war.¹⁶

Everything in the Middle East has only been downhill since then: Saddam threatened Glaspie that individual Arabs could take the war to the USA.¹⁷ And, strong links point to Saddam Hussein having a relationship with Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden, resulting in the Kenya bombings of

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16. Louis Jacobsen, "Donald Trump says Kuwait Never Paid US Back for Ousting Saddam Hussein," *PolitiFact*, April 27, 2011, available at: <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2011/apr/27/donald-trump/donal-trump-says-kuwait-never-paid-us-back-ousting/>.

17. Elaine Sciolino and Michael R. Gordon, "Confrontation in the Gulf; US Gave Iraq Little Reason not to Mount Kuwait Assault," *The New York Times*, September 23, 1990, available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/1990/09/23/world/confrontation-in-the-gulf-us-gave-iraq-little-reason-not-to-mount-kuwait-assault.html?pagewanted=all>.

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1996, followed by the infamous attacks on the twin towers in New York.^{18, 19} But, despite the ensuing interventions by the US in the Middle East, the USA's revenge was not over, since Iran came out stronger from the Iran-Iraq War than it was going in. In aiming to find a path, the Mideast players have themselves shown a path to the USA, where internal rivalries and hatreds (mainly Shia-Sunni) have allowed the USA to exploit both sentiments. Through this path, the revenge stands a better chance of being firmly realised. But, it's not only about revenge: it is also about genuinely ensuring that terrorist strikes and propaganda against the USA cease.

US AND ISRAELI CRAFTINESS

In allowing the ISIS to be rampant, and given that the outcome reflects which party eventually gains, it is evident that the US was able to craftily unite the disagreeing Sunni nations of the Middle East into a sort of coalition, albeit for limited purposes. Thus, the US continued to feign its role by encouraging the UAE, Qatar, and Jordan to launch air strikes against Baghdadi's ISIS. But, we all know how ineffective those air strikes were. But by then, the blow had been struck: the Sunni nations were united by default because they now had a common enemy. That the ISIS now considered those united Sunni nations as enemies is evident. The ISIS was, thus, on its own in its self-proclaimed caliphate, a situation it would not mind because now it was beholden to none.²⁰ But, the process had enabled the USA to

18. Glenn Kesler, "The Cheneys' Claim of a 'Deep, Longstanding, Far-reaching Relationship' between al-Qaeda and Saddam," *The Washington Post*, July 17, 2014, available at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2014/07/17/the-cheneys-claims-of-a-deep-longstanding-far-reaching-relationship-between-al-qaeda-and-saddam/?utm_term=.24869a3a6f11.

19. Thomas Joscelyn, "WikiLeaks: The Iraq-Al Qaeda Connection Confirmed, Again," *The Weekly Standard*, April 26, 2011, available at: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/wikileaks-the-iraq-al-qaeda-connection-confirmed-again/article/558271>.

20. Wood, n. 14.

forge a united Sunni coalition of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, and UAE, while Kuwait was already in the USA's corner. At the same time, the ISIS has been kept relatively weak, so as not to go out of control.²¹ Correspondingly, Benjamin Netanyahu once said that the ISIS was not a threat to Israel – but that Iran really was.²² It seems that exactly what Israel and the US want in West Asia is happening there: having the various Muslim factions in West Asia destroy each other so as to weaken as a cognisant threat to Israel and the free world in the long run.

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It doesn't go unobserved that the ISIS hasn't attacked Israel at all. This is easy to understand if it can be believed that Baghdadi's masters (the USA) haven't granted permission for this. Of greater import, however, is that reports have suggested that Israel's Mossad has trained the ISIS fighters.²³ Whether that is true or not, it is for certain that the war-fighting capabilities of its enemies, Syria, Libya, and Iraq, have been painfully degraded to the benefit of Israel. But, it is a fact that even though the Muslim governments may change in the Arab nations, they remain united in their anti-Israel platform, even while Jordan and Saudi Arabia have learned to take a back seat, while Egypt was quietened after the 1979 peace agreement. And, Iraq was quite badly mauled by the USA, such that it is in no position to threaten Israel. But, Iran and the Hezbollah remain a vocal threat to Israel. There still being an existentialist threat to Israel, it is in the vital survival interests of Israel to humble the capability of its enemies any time an opportunity presents itself. And the opportunity has presented itself—the ISIS serves as the perfect tool for that. Hence, the theory that Israel might

21. Like a controlled fire set by fire-fighters to burn dry bush rather than have a natural fire burn it, at which occasion, the fire can conceivably rage out of control.

22. "Netanyahu: Iran Greater Threat than ISIL," *Al Jazeera*, September 30, 2014, available at: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2014/09/netanyahu-says-iran-greater-threat-than-isil-2014929211933546717.html>.

23. Volubrijotor, "Russia Says Israel Training ISIS: Israel Secret Intelligence Service," *Political Vel Craft*, May 13, 2015, available at: <https://politicalvelcraft.org/2015/05/13/russia-says-israel-training-isis-israel-secret-intelligence-service/>.

Thus, the US fights its secret war in the Middle East without sending troops there, a line that Hillary Clinton reiterated in the campaign trail very recently. Manifestly, this is a smarter strategy than sending tens of thousands of its own troops.

have aided the ISIS is not without its arguable foundations.

It, thus, also appears easy to understand why the USA never really funded the Free Syrian Army with lethal arms, though Hillary Clinton apparently wanted to. But Clinton was probably not privy to the secret plans, as told to Gen Wesley Clark by Kissinger, and revealed by Gen Wesley Clark himself.²⁴ Indeed, much of US intelligence is plausibly outside the knowledge of its masters, just as the Pakistani ministers are not told all that the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) does. This is a trait of every powerful intelligence agency: they can operate with impunity, without taking their governments into confidence. Hence, they become a government within a government, no matter that the civilian government has the power to appoint the chief of the agency.²⁵ Every new US president must perforce compromise sooner or later, since he knows little of the ongoing covert operations, and has single-minded, conspiring advisers coming out of the woodwork of the intelligence agencies to waylay his thinking.

Thus, the US fights its secret war in the Middle East without sending troops there, a line that Hillary Clinton reiterated in the campaign trail very recently. Manifestly, this is a smarter strategy than sending tens of thousands of its own troops. Why shed your own blood when the enemy will shed its blood to fulfil your purpose?

Moreover, arming the Free Syrian Army could make the war end in Syria with Assad's ouster, which would not satisfy US intentions of redrawing borders in the Middle East. Hence, you see that Assad is still in power today

24. Amarjit Singh, "The Middle East Destabilized by Design," *Centre for Land Warfare Studies*, Article #1234, August 6, 2014, available at: <http://www.claws.in/1234/the-middle-east-destabilized-by-design-amarjit-singh.html>.

25. However, Pakistan's chief of the ISI is not appointed by the civilian government.

(at the time of writing) after five years of serious civil war and external invasion by the ISIS, and that Russia and the US are working on a peace agreement in Syria to somewhat blunt each other. However, the war by their proxies shall go on.

To have the war-fighting ability of the Arabs and Muslims bled to death is the real US and Israeli intention, and that intention is being achieved by the US day by day. Taking in a few thousand Syrian refugees does not hurt a large nation like the US, since it allows it to mask its real intentions, while screening the Syrian refugees to take mostly the rich and educated ones who stand to cause the least trouble when in the US, thereby minimising any collateral damage of taking in the refugees. The plot, again, is perfect.

In addition, a new “map of the Mideast” that was made by Lt Col. Ralph Peters, and which has been discussed at the US National War Academy, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Defence College, and other places since 2006, shows a total redrawing of the region.

THE “NEW” MIDEAST

Though many may term this “plot” a conspiracy theory, one cannot fail to recognise that the outcomes of the events in the Middle East are systematically downgrading the economic and military capabilities of those that would seek to hurt the US and Israel – Syria and Iraq to be specific, while Iran has been downgraded over the past twenty years through boycotts and sanctions.²⁶ And, as far as the military threat of Iran and the Shias against Israel is concerned, the USA is working hard to start a Sunni-Shia war that would be the largest among the West Asian countries ever. The US might be slowly but surely moving towards a “new Middle East,” as said by Condoleeza Rice soon after the invasion of Lebanon by Israel in 2006,

26. Derek Tsang, “Bloggers: Edward Snowden Leaked NSA Documents show U.S., Israel Created Islamic State,” *PunditFACT*, August 19, 2014, available at: <http://www.politifact.com/punditfact/statements/2014/aug/19/blog-posting/edward-snowden-leaked-nsa-documents-show-us-israel/>.

[W]hat we're seeing here [in regards to the destruction of Lebanon and the Israeli attacks on Lebanon], in a sense, is the growing—the 'birth pangs'—of a 'New Middle East' and whatever we do, we [meaning the United States] have to be certain that we're pushing forward to the New Middle East [and] not going back to the old one.²⁷

In addition, a new "map of the Mideast" that was made by Lt Col. Ralph Peters, and which has been discussed at the US National War Academy, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Defence College, and other places since 2006, shows a total redrawing of the region. Iraq is trifurcated; Saudi Arabia is broken down; Jordan gets a "Greater Jordan" thereby allowing the Hashemite Kingdom to get some of its ancient lands back; Turkey is sliced to make way for Kurdistan; Baluchistan is created; and Afghanistan gets Quetta and the present northern Baluchistan province of Pakistan.²⁸ This map has become one of the most visited pages of the *Armed Forces Journal*. The vitriol that has been generated prompted the Turkish chief of staff to contact the US' chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and protest about the map.²⁹

A more realistic map is modified by the author in Fig 1 that closely complements, and builds upon, the Peters map: Iran, Syria, Iraq, and Turkey lose territory to the Kurds wherever the Kurds are in large numbers on their outlying border areas; but the Kurds are not landlocked, and get an opening to the Black Sea. Of course, none of this is going to happen simply, and will necessitate war. Iraq is quadfurcated into the Iraqi Shia, Iraqi Sunni, Kurd areas, and the central city-state of Baghdad, if that can be viable. Saudi Arabia loses control over its eastern part of the peninsula, gets relegated only to its Islamic places of worship and Riyadh, under the old name of the region, Hejaz, but spins off the northern homeland and southern homeland territories to the native Bedouins who have owned them for centuries. The monarchy of the Saud family collapses. Yemen finds itself a beneficiary of

27. Mahdi Darius Nazemroaya, "Plans for Redrawing the Middle East: The Project for a "New Middle East"," *Global Research*, October 1, 2006, available at: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/plans-for-redrawing-the-middle-east-the-project-for-a-new-middle-east/3882>.

28. "Peters' 'Blood Borders' Map," *Armed Forces Journal*, October 2, 2013, available at: <http://armedforcesjournal.com/peters-blood-borders-map/>.

29. Nazemroaya, n. 27, 23

the southern districts of Saudi Arabia that have Shia populations. Israel gains firm control of the West Bank, which it has vowed to never release, but a “New Palestine” sliver of territory is created east of the West Bank that has the river Jordan as a natural border with Israel. Jordan will need to give up some territory for that, but will gain from the northern areas of present Saudi Arabia and a route to the sea via the Gulf of Aqaba. Jordan gaining territories from Saudi Arabia is really a partial retake of the territories it owned in the 19th century, because the present Hashemite Kingdom owned the greater part of the Arabian peninsula at one time, including the holy site of Mecca that it ruled non-stop since the 10th century till it was overtaken by the Kingdom of Saud in 1924, and pushed northwards. The incentive for Jordan to give up a sliver of land for a Palestinian

state is the greater land it will acquire from Saudi Arabia, as well as a route to the ocean. The Palestinians are likely to jump on board, seeing an attractive chance without any obligation or compromise with Israel. This will also put to rest the two-state idea about Israel and Palestine, and give each country its own state.

The rearrangement of the Muslim Mideast affects its immediate and turbulence-ridden Muslim neighbours to the east – Pakistan and Afghanistan. Pakistan breaks down, Kashmir reverts to India, and the Federally Administred Tribal Area (FATA) goes to Afghanistan which always laid claim to it. Baluchistan gets the present-day Baluchistan province, including Quetta, and other Baluch areas in Iran, but Iran gets the Shia region of Herat

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Over the past 15 years, Saudi Arabia has been slowly buying major weapons from the US, such that Saudi Arabia arguably spends more on foreign defence acquisitions than India, which is a country ten times larger.

in Afghanistan, over which Iran has gone to war against Afghanistan many times in the 19th century and earlier. The creation of Baluchistan helps the USA get a direct route to Afghanistan via a friendly area. West Punjab and Sindh either become independent states, which they once were, or else become protectorates of India, mainly because Pakistan has no historical reason to exist, with "Pakistan" not even being a historical name for that part.

Yet it stands to common sense that such immense redrawing of borders cannot happen without war. "This constructive chaos –which generates conditions of violence and warfare throughout the region, would, in turn, be used so that the United States, Britain, and Israel could redraw the map of the Middle East in accordance with their geo-strategic needs and objectives."³⁰ India stands to benefit, as well.³¹ The concept of a new Mideast resonates with Henry Kissinger's belief of never ending war to retain primacy.³² Further, the map confirms the thinking and actions of successive US governments. Thus, West Asia is headed towards a realignment of borders to better reflect the ethnic status of the people. By so doing, existing Muslim nations would stand weakened, Israel would feel less threatened, and the oil of the region would firmly and logically come largely under the management and control of the Western oil companies.

The 9/11 event was a wake-up call for America, in this regard, to retaliate across the entire Middle East against elements that sought the destruction

30. Ibid.

31. But, without a shade of doubt, this rearrangement will benefit India, secure India's security both vis-à-vis Pakistan and China, and improve India's economy. By the break-up of Pakistan, the nexus between Pakistan and China will disappear, the dual threat of attack by Pakistan and China on India will disappear, China will be deprived of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and this will make Chinese shipping through the Indian Ocean more vulnerable to Indian interdiction in time of war. Hence, it is actually of paramount importance for India that Pakistan is broken down.

32. Greg Grandin, "How Henry Kissinger Helped Make Endless War an All-American Tradition," *In These Times*, November 9, 2015, available at: <http://inthesetimes.com/article/18581/henry-kissinger-greg-grandin-us-military-air-power>.

of the USA. Hence, the revenge of the USA is most natural. All present events in the Middle East must be looked at with this new map in perspective, because they tell the tale of the motivation behind the present events – from Pakistan and Afghanistan to Libya.

SAUDI MILITARY BUILD-UP AND THE SHIA CRESCENT

Over the past 15 years, Saudi Arabia has been slowly buying major weapons from the US, such that Saudi Arabia arguably spends more on foreign defence acquisitions than India, which is a country ten times larger.³³ The whole purpose of Saudi Arabia in buying those weapons, and for the US to sell them, is to create an opposition against a more populous Shia Iran and the Shia crescent of Baluchistan, Bahrain, Yemen, Syria's Assad, and Hezbollah. Note that the UAE and Bahrain forbid Iranian tourists, and Shia-Sunni friction has been rife in Bahrain and Kuwait for decades going back to the Iran-Iraq War.³⁴ The whole region is now polarising into an Iran-dominated Shia group vs. a Saudi Wahhabi-led Sunni group. Saudi Arabia has pulled the Sunni and nuclear Pakistan into this group, while it already has the involvement of Egypt, another major power in West Asia.³⁵

The Saudi-Iran (read Sunni-Shia) rivalry has resulted in a re-pivot by Saudi Arabia and Iran across all major Muslim populations in all countries in the Middle East and South Asia, and their reach has extended to distant

It is notable that Sunni-Shia rivalry is so endemic that Indonesia already simmers with anti-Shia sentiment, such that only 0.5 percent of the population is Shia, while Malaysia bans the Shia faith altogether, while outwardly claiming to be secular.

33. "Top 10 Largest Arms Importer Countries in the World," World Knowing, accessed November 2016, available at: <http://worldknowing.com/top-10-largest-arms-importer-country-in-the-world/>.

34. The author was present in Kuwait in the early 1980s when the Iranian bombings were reported there.

35. "Pakistan joins Saudi-Led Anti-Terror Coalition," *Sputnik*, December 18, 2015, available at: <https://sputniknews.com/politics/20151218/1031937789/pakistan-join-saudi-coalition.html>.

Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia.^{36,37} It is notable that Sunni-Shia rivalry is so endemic that Indonesia already simmers with anti-Shia sentiment, such that only 0.5 percent of the population is Shia, while Malaysia bans the Shia faith altogether, while outwardly claiming to be secular.^{38,39}

The events in January 2016, when Saudi Arabia hanged a Shia cleric, after which the Iranians retaliated by assaulting the Saudi Embassy in Tehran, followed by Saudi Arabia severing diplomatic ties with Iran, are precursors of more serious events to come. As a consequence, and without a shade of doubt, Russia stood to gain by supplying arms to the Shia powers, and has slowly positioned itself to side with the group that is perceived to be anti-US, to balance the power of, and preempt, the US' hegemony in the region. The rest, such as the USA removing the arms embargo against Iran is partly smoke and mirrors and bluff, but arguably with an amazing masked purpose of allowing Iran to build up its military muscle so that the two major powers in West Asia – Saudi Arabia and Iran—along with their smaller allies, can battle it out, to surely dismember each others' ability to ever raise their heads again against the United States or Israel. West Asia would then be finally and successfully defanged for decades, may be centuries, to come.

In fact, it is to be observed that the first large purchases of the Iranian regime, after the US sanctions were removed, comprised the armaments from Russia.⁴⁰ As shocking as this may sound to Russia, this is probably just what the US wants – so that Iran and Saudi Arabia may eventually feel confident enough go to war and downgrade each other. There is seemingly a larger geopolitical plot to this than meets the eye.

36. Abha Shankar, "The Saudi-Iran Rivalry and Sectarian Strife in South Asia," *The Diplomat*, October 6, 2016, available at: <http://thediplomat.com/2016/10/the-saudi-iran-rivalry-and-sectarian-strife-in-south-asia/>.

37. "Saudi Royal Family Gave \$681M to Malaysian PM Who Banned Shia Islam," *NewsRescue*, January 30, 2016, available at: <http://newsrescue.com/saudi-royal-family-gave-681m-to-malaysian-pm-who-banned-shia-islam/#axzz4MdLrJKh4>".

38. Ethan Harfenist, "Anti-Shia Sentiment Simmers Ahead of Indonesia's Election," *Vice News*, May 26, 2014, available at: <https://news.vice.com/article/anti-shia-sentiment-simmers-ahead-of-indonesias-election>.

39. "In Otherwise Tolerant Malaysia, Shiites are Banned," *Al Arabiya News*, January 14, 2011, available at: <https://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/01/14/133463.html>.

40. Adam Kredo, "Iran to Spend \$8 Billion on Russian Weapons and Warplanes," *The Washington Free Beacon*, February 16, 2016, available at: <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/iran-spend-8-billion-russian-weapons/>.

Further, the war in Yemen is solely a war between the Houthis, who belong to the Zaydi Shia sect, supported by Iran, and the Sunnis, who hold the reins to the government with Saudi support. By itself, Saudi Arabia has poor fighting skills, and will need to buy professional armies, such as those of Pakistan and Egypt, to fight on its side in a future Shia-Sunni war. Thus, Saudi Arabia has tried hard to get Egypt and Pakistan to enter the war along with a coalition of nine other Sunni nations. Pakistan has resisted, and Egypt has dragged its feet.^{41,42}

Though Israel would like to see its enemies destroyed without suffering from the side effects itself, there is no effective alternative to the present strategy for the foreseeable future because the present events are working quite successfully.

Though Israel would like to see its enemies destroyed without suffering from the side effects itself, there is no effective alternative to the present strategy for the foreseeable future because the present events are working quite successfully. Israel would be happy to see its Muslim adversaries destroy each other. And, as for itself, Israel now has immense confidence that it can shoot down the incoming missiles or nuclear-tipped rockets that Iran may launch at it. Israel's new David's Sling is more effective than the US' Patriot missile, and has been offered to the Indian defence forces; all six of the Sunni Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members are interested in procuring David's Sling to protect themselves from Iranian Shia rockets.⁴³ That said, Israel would shed no tears if Iranian bombs are used on the Sunnis of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and the Pakistani Sunni bomb is used on Iran via Saudi Arabia.

41. Kamran Haider and Natalie Obiko Pearson, "Pakistan Resists Saudi Troop Request for Yemen; Seeks Cease-Fire," *Bloomberg*, April 9, 2015, available at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-04-10/pakistan-calls-for-yemen-cease-fire-as-saudi-arabia-seeks-troops>.

42. David Kirkpatrick, "Egypt Says It May Send Troops to Yemen to Fight Houthis," *The New York Times*, March 26, 2015, available at: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/27/world/middleeast/saudi-arabia-houthis-yemen.html?_r=0.

43. "David's Sling," Wikipedia, available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David%27s_Sling.

And so, the US is confident that Russia will not be able to sustain a prolonged entanglement in Syria, hurting as it is from the economic sanctions imposed by the West. It knows that Russia will desire to forge peace quite soon.

RUSSIA'S GAME PLAN AND PRESENCE, AND THE SAUDI TRAP

The entrance of Russia into Syria is no sorrow, either, for the USA, even though it must officially object to the Russian intervention. The fact is that any engagement in a war in West Asia will economically drain Russia, much more than it drained the US in Iraq and Afghanistan to the tune of \$4.8 trillion.⁴⁴ To wit, the US presidential candidate, Donald Trump, claims that the USA spent \$6 trillion [more than thrice the entire 2015 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India], thereby draining US infrastructure repair and investment.⁴⁵ The US could withstand this economic depletion, much as it has already withstood 15 years of Mideast turmoil, but a feeble Russia would be consumed by it. This is why we partly saw Russia scurry towards a ceasefire in Syria (September 2016). And so, the US is confident that Russia will not be able to sustain a prolonged entanglement in Syria, hurting as it is from the economic sanctions imposed by the West. It knows that Russia will desire to forge peace quite soon. Con Coughlin writes,

The Russian economy already has enough difficulties without having to bear the cost of Mr. Putin's latest act of military aggression. Moscow's invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s ultimately bankrupted the Soviet Union: the Syrian conflict could have a similarly catastrophic effect on modern Russia.⁴⁶

But, for the US, it is just as well that Russia supplies armaments to the Shia fighters, because, in that event, any war with the better-armed Sunnis could

44. "Economic Costs" Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Costs of War Project, updated September, 2016, available at: <http://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/economic>.

45. Tim Rains, "Trump: We Spent \$6 Trillion in the Middle East, We Could Have Rebuilt Our Country Twice," *Real Clear*, September 26, 2016, available at: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2016/09/26/trump_we_spent_6_trillion_in_the_middle_east_we_could_have_rebuilt_our_country_twice.html.

46. Con Coughlin, "Russia's Failed Adventure in Syria," Gatestone Institute, December 2015, available at: <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/6990/russia-failure-syria>.

be bloodier. There is precedence in this: the US supported Iraq for eight years in its war against Iran, as a proxy war for the US, aiding Sunni Saddam Hussein and supplying him with weapons of mass destruction, resulting in deeper destruction of the Muslim world, eventually precipitating the destruction of Iraq after the Iraq-Iran and Gulf Wars. Thus, the US finds it best to make the Sunnis fight the Shias rather than have its own troops fight both, much as advocated by Hillary Clinton. Though outwardly, the US backs the Sunnis, the subtle nuance in arming the Shias is achieved through the Iran deal that released US\$ 150 billion in Iranian funds that were tied up, and subsequent Russian military supplies to Iran that are more possible with this vast sum of money released.⁴⁷ Though Russia thinks it is (i) making money by selling armaments to Iran; and (ii) that it can project itself as a player in the Middle East, the truth is that the USA is outwitting Russia by far, since it has more staying power and stamina.

Russia's game plan in the Middle East is to feed its sense of self and remind itself of the great global power it once was, hoping that it can sustain itself over the long haul, obtain acceptance from the Shias, establish a permanent presence in West Asia, and hope that its economy will one day become strong enough to sustain its projection of power. As analysed by the Orient Advisory Group,

Currently, the regional dynamic is showing that the conflict has entered a phase in which Russia plays for the Iranians the same role the US has played for the Arabs. It was the US that used military force to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi forces in 1991. Now, it is the Russians who use military force to achieve the Iranian goal of keeping Assad in power.

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47. Harold Rhode, "The US Role in the Sunni-Shi'ite Conflict," Gatestone Institute, March 2013, available at: <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/3708/the-us-role-in-the-sunni-shiite-conflict>.

In the case of Pakistan, Trump believes that Pakistani nuclear abilities must be secured, while Hillary worries that the nukes could fall into the hands of *jihadis* by way of a military coup for which something should be done.

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This falls right into the American game plan of fuelling Muslim parochial sentiments and the arms race between the Shias and Sunnis. Hence, Russia's presence is making little difference to the overall US' game plan, and may, in fact, be accelerating it by Russian arms going to Iran. The rapprochement between Turkey and Russia is, thus, neither here nor there in the greater

Sunni-Shia conflict, evidently conceived and orchestrated by the USA.⁴⁹ In fact, Saudi Arabia has worked to undermine Russian oil revenues by first raising oil production and preserving its share of the European oil market in competition with Russia, the world's top oil producer.⁵⁰

The situation is all the more convoluted because Saudi Arabia and the USA have conspired to draw Russia into the region. Peter Lvov writes, "Apparently, Washington has decided to crush Russia along with Iran and Syria, without waiting for the arrival of Hillary Clinton as a newly elected head of state."⁵¹

Now, by offering to cut back on production and raise oil prices, Saudi Arabia is offering Moscow lucrative contracts. However, as soon as Moscow finishes Saudi Arabia's bidding, the latter falls back to looking after its own interests. "Saudi Arabia has tried to play this trick on Russia time and time again, promising lucrative contracts that were retracted immediately once

48. "Putin's Game Plan in the Mid-East," July 2016, available at: <http://mebriefing.com/?p=2363>.

49. Though a strange rapprochement that has only come about after the failed coup attempt, where the US is alleged to have had a hand, for which Prime Minister Erdogan was tipped off by the Russians, which helped Erdogan save his own life. Yet, Turkey is a member of NATO that is nervous of the Russian bear.

50. Tim Dais, "Saudi Arabia Is Forced to Raise Cash as Oil Prices Tank," *Forbes Business*, September 23, 2016, available at: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/timdaiss/2016/09/23/saudi-arabia-is-forced-to-raise-cash-as-oil-prices-tank/#5597b755f079>.

51. Peter Lvov, "Saudi Arabia is Setting a Trap for Moscow Yet Again," *New Eastern Outlook*, July 19, 2016, available at: <http://journal-neo.org/2016/07/29/saudi-arabia-is-setting-a-trap-for-moscow-yet-again/>.

Saudi Arabia got what it was after.”⁵² The indications from the past behaviour are that Russia will believe the Saudi promises this time also, and, thus, fall into yet another trap of Saudi Arabia, which is to send false signals to Russia, make it believe it has regained superpower status in the Mideast, and get it away from breathing down Saudi Arabia’s neck, besides plotting the long-term setback to Russia’s economy by increasing oil production any time it wants.⁵³ And once Moscow is economically weak, it will not be able to deliver to its allies in the region (read Iran in the large part, while Syria is only a proxy of Iran).⁵⁴

In the event that the Iran-US deal is cancelled, Saudi Arabia will feel emboldened to attack Shia interests economically and militarily, much as it has already demonstrated in Yemen. In the event that the ISIS is defeated, the Shias will feel emboldened. In either case, the war in the Mideast will perpetuate, out of which a new Mideast will surely emerge.

THE US PRESIDENTIAL RACE, 2016

As interesting as the presidential race was for the personality attacks and accusations by both sides on character flaws and deceptive actions, the deeper reading is that the election of either candidate would make no difference to the overall US game plan in West Asia and the Middle East, in general, or, for that matter, Pakistan. Both candidates proposed to further pursue US interests in the Mideast: Trump, by sending in ground troops and escalating the aerial bombing; Hillary, by funding local militias and armies to take each other out, and by enforcing a possible no-fly zone over Syria. In the case of Pakistan, Trump believes that Pakistani nuclear abilities must be secured, while Hillary worries that the nukes could fall into the hands of *jihadis* by way of a military coup for which something should

52. Ibid.

53. But Saudi Arabia’s game can only be temporary, because Russia is a country extremely rich in all types of natural resources. This signals again that the House of Saud is throwing punches above its weight, and, thus, cannot last too long before it itself frazzles to create the new countries in the Arabian peninsula.

54. Lvov, n. 51.

be done.⁵⁵ Both candidates, though riding different horses, and coming from different paths, promised to keep the Mideast on full boil for the next four years, treading slowly towards the “new” Mideast. All the while, it is firmly believed in many quarters that Hillary Clinton receives funds from foreign governments through the Clinton Foundation, which eventually sells America out to foreign governments and fulfils their bidding rather than advance the USA’s real interests, ensuring that Clinton assists the wars of foreign governments going on in the Middle East.⁵⁶

In the event that the Iran-US deal is cancelled, Saudi Arabia will feel emboldened to attack Shia interests economically and militarily, much as it has already demonstrated in Yemen. In the event that the ISIS is defeated, the Shias will feel emboldened. In either case, the war in the Mideast will perpetuate, out of which a new Mideast will surely emerge.

CONCLUSION

It is seen that American complicity in the Middle East is complete. And, in the way in which events are unfolding, it appears that all events are playing perfectly into the intentions of the US, i.e., to see the Arabs and Muslims eventually destroy each other in a Shia-Sunni Armageddon, if you may, to generate new geographical contours in the region. Further, these intentions are greatly aligned with the wishes of the Christian-dominated nations and Israel. It is evident that America is waging a secret war in the Middle East, because its verbal claims are quite the opposite or quite inexplicable, and all the nations – whether they are Shia or Sunni – are apparently playing into the USA’s hands.

Russia may try to exert a presence in the Mideast, and consider itself as a major player, but the truth is that Russia cannot reverse the overall game plan of the USA, which is to see Sunnis and Shias battle and damage each

55. Chidanand Rajghattai, “Hillary Worries about Jihadi Coup and Pakistani Suicide Nuclear Bombers,” *The Times of India*, October 1, 2016, available at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/Hillary-worries-about-Jihadi-coup-and-Pakistani-suicide-nuclear-bombers/articleshow/54613062.cms>.

56. William Douglas and Anita Kumar, “Why the Clinton Foundation and Foreign Money are an Issue,” *McClatchy DC*, June 22, 2016, available at: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article85253837.html>

other. Thus, whether Russia supplies arms to Iran or not, the result will be identical, in that the Shia and Sunni moon will turn red with blood. The argument was further presented that no matter which candidate won the US presidential race, it would make no difference to the outcome in the Middle East, because both candidates propose continued US involvement in the Middle East with an aim of escalating the war, at least to defeat the ISIS, which they themselves likely created in the first instance. The plot is perfect.

While Israel, to the west of Muslim West Asia, is doing all in its power to weaken the Arabs and Muslim powers, India, to the east, must realise that a Shia-Sunni war in West Asia will likely be the denouement of a chapter that sees Pakistan considerably weakened and diminished. Thus, the situation in the Middle East is not something for India to fear, but to consider as an opportunity for itself, and prepare to fight a prolonged war on the western front without fear.

Fig 1: The New Middle East

