

# THE MOST DANGEROUS NATION

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Of the three original “axis of evil” nations from George W. Bush’s vocabulary<sup>1</sup>, there are still one-and-a-half in the lurch. Iraq’s been taken down and North Korea closed its Yangbyon reactor after the disarmament agreement in February 2007<sup>2</sup> and then destroyed a vital cooling tower at Yangbyon in June 2008<sup>3</sup>. Subsequently, the USA formally removed North Korea from the list of terrorist states, which was substantial progress at the time<sup>4</sup>. But now that North Korea is back to its antics of aiming to test a satellite that the USA is getting ready to shoot down, North Korea is still at least half a problem if not a full blown one. It is quite remarkable how underdeveloped nations with unremarkable technologies and low quality of life, such as Afghanistan and North Korea, can have a big nation like the USA spinning in confusion. It is important to recall that the axis of evil nations were dubbed as such because of their trajectory toward making nuclear weapons for unholy ends and their long history of anti-USA rantings. But, so far, Kim Jong Il’s rockets can’t hit

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1. Iraq, Iran, and North Korea.
2. Ted Moore, “Yongbyon Reactor Closed, North Korea Confirms,” *eNews 2.0*, [http://www.eneews20.com/news\\_Yongbyon\\_Reactor\\_Closed\\_North\\_Korea\\_Confirms\\_01605.html](http://www.eneews20.com/news_Yongbyon_Reactor_Closed_North_Korea_Confirms_01605.html), 14:39, July 15, 2007.
3. “N. Korea Destroys Nuclear Reactor Tower,” *cnn.com/asia*, <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/06/27/northkorea.explosion/index.html>, June 27, 2008.
4. Richard Lloyd Parry, “US Removes North Korea From Terror List, Saving Nuclear Deal,” *Times Online*, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article4918302.ece>, October 10, 2008

targets accurately, let alone reach the USA; to use a figure of speech, he barely has one-and-a-half nuclear bombs; his real strength is his vitriolic rhetoric, not the battlefield<sup>5</sup>.

Similarly, Iran's bark is worse than its bite, being propped by Communist China, testing missiles that can't yet carry nuclear warheads, and calling the USA "Satan's nation," thumbing its nose at the USA each time. Like Iraq, Iran can't make most of its soldiers march in line – that's how useless they might be from a military perspective, though not altogether benign given their nurturing of Hezbollah, threat to "eliminate" Israel, and propensity to acquire nuclear weapons. Their missile threat against Israel possibly deterred a 2006 Israeli invasion of Syria<sup>6</sup>, so Iran can pack a punch. However, the axis-of-evil nations aren't in the league of China and Russia to directly threaten the USA yet, but it would be unrealistic to allow them to attain that capability. Nevertheless, a sharp nation in sheep's clothing that is not among the "axis of evil" nations but poses a threat to the United States is Pakistan, which has a professional army, pretends to be a friend of the United States, harbours and exports terrorists, has nuclear bombs that can fall into the hands of terrorists, is racked by internal strife, and is ready to implode any year now, projecting evil to the world through its Taliban protégés and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)-supported terrorist outfits. The denial of human rights by the Taliban to its own people, such as denial of education for girls, is most abhorrent. Even though Pakistan has apparently taken a formal stand against the Taliban, the populace is divided in its opinion of its Muslim Taliban brethren, and, therefore, there is a perpetual fear of Pakistan folding up and imploding.

The situation in Pakistan, far from improving, has only been going from bad to worse. Pashtun tribesmen from the northwest regions have holed up in Karachi and barred outsiders from entering large neighbourhoods. The mayor of Karachi openly says he is afraid to enter those neighbourhoods, even with

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5. His one million strong army has obsolete weapons, but the one big threat North Korea makes is the reduction of Seoul to rubble along with the possible use of an atomic bomb on Seoul.

6. Mahdi Darius Nazemroaya, "Israel's Nuclear Missile Threat Against Iran," *Global Research*, <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=7838>, January 19, 2008.

police escort. Militancy has been increasing in all Pakistani cities on a daily basis. Even Lahore is more tense and troubled than ever before. Terror runs without a leash in South Punjab. What should be more vexing is that 59 per cent of all Pakistanis share Al Qaeda's attitudes towards the Americans.<sup>7</sup> Today, Pakistan is the most serious issue facing the free world, a hot flash-point in the world given the USA's involvement in neighbouring Afghanistan, and not only a 60-year old Indian concern.

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#### PAKISTAN'S PRETENSIONS

Once in a long while, Pakistan would catch a terrorist and use that as evidence to claim friendship with the USA. Now, Pakistan's actions in Swat and Waziristan appear to give the impression that Pakistan favours the USA over the Taliban. In fact, Pakistan's slow rate of catching terrorists and taking action against them should, in itself, raise flags<sup>8</sup>. After an eight-year hiatus, Pakistan and the USA finally got wise to the issue of ground action against the Taliban making camp in the northwest territories. It was obvious that the longer we would let the tens of thousands of Al Qaeda terrorists and Taliban loose and uncaught in Pakistani territory, the more time they would have to regroup and plan. This was a no-brainer, but it is noteworthy that the Pakistan regime forestalled ground action for 7+ years. Any strategist can tell you that the Taliban should not have that freedom of planning. This is a global war, and the world's security is at stake<sup>9</sup>.

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7. Nicholas D. Kristof, "Taliban in Nuclear Pakistan Pose Biggest Threat to US," *Star Bulletin*, July 24, 2009.

8. The former Director General of India's Defence Intelligence Agency, Lt Gen Kamal Davar writes "[P]akistani forces would occasionally help the CIA capture second string Al Qaeda figures to meet the objective of keeping aid money flowing from Washington ... [t]he Bush administration deceived itself from the very beginning." See "Emerging Situation in Pakistan: Implications for India," *CLAWS Journal*, Winter 2008, p. 51.

9. Taliban and Pak-based terrorists have exploded bombs in London, Spain, and numerous Indian cities.

The “hammer-and-anvil” operation of the United States was mostly the US hammer and the little Pakistani anvil because the Taliban and Al Qaeda elements managed to escape through the Pakistani cordon<sup>10</sup>. In early March 2007, Musharaff’s regime made a startling deal with the one-legged Mullah Dadullah of the Taliban to regain a strong foothold in southwestern Afghanistan<sup>11</sup>. Thus, Pakistan prepared to turn its back on its erstwhile ally and benefactor, the United States, but fortunately the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) forces sprung a trap for Dadullah after the deal was made public, killing him in a military operation<sup>12</sup>. Later, towards the end of 2007, the Pakistani “cleansing” of Waziristan was a failure, ending with the militants ruling the roost and attacking army convoys and police stations at will<sup>13</sup>. Pakistani operations in Swat launched in October 2007 with helicopter gunships yielded few positive results, only to end with the halting of action and conducting of negotiations with the Taliban<sup>14</sup>. Subsequently, Pakistani actions in Swat have been an “off-on” campaign. Pakistani actions against Waziristan and Swat in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2008 sounded like a successful operation, but were done with exceptionally few troops. Subsequently, Pakistan signed an unholy ceasefire agreement with the militants in Waziristan. Of late, Pakistan has allowed Islamic rule to be imposed in Swat, and Pakistan has little to no control over its Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) regions<sup>15</sup>. In January 2009, Pakistan again launched operations in Swat<sup>16</sup> after Maulana Fazlullah’s militants burned 165 girls’ schools and 80 video shops, and blew

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10. Syed Saleem Shahzad, “Pakistan: After the Hammer, Now the Screws,” *Asia Times Online*, [http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South\\_Asia/FE19Df03.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/FE19Df03.html), May 13, 2004.
  11. Syed Saleem Shahzad, “Pakistan Makes a Deal with the Taliban,” *Asia Times Online*, [http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South\\_Asia/IC01Df03.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/IC01Df03.html), Mar 1, 2007.
  12. Benjamin Sand, “US-led Forces Kill Top Taliban Commander in Afghanistan,” *voanews.com*, <http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2007-05/2007-05-13-voa7.cfm>, May 13, 2007.
  13. Wikipedia, “War in North-West Pakistan,” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waziristan\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waziristan_War), accessed March 2009.
  14. Bill Roggio, “Pakistan Launches Operation in Swat,” *The Long War Journal*, [http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/10/pakistan\\_launches\\_op.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/10/pakistan_launches_op.php) October 26, 2007.
  15. For insights into FATA and NWFP, refer Samarjit Ghosh, “Insurgency in the FATA and NWFP: Challenges & Prospects for the Pakistan Army,” *Manekshaw Paper*, no. 6, CLAWS, 2008.
  16. Rahimullah Yusufzai, “Pakistan: War in Focus – Swat 2009,” *The Muslim News*, <http://www.muslimnews.co.uk/paper/index.php?article=3954>, February 27, 2009.



up 20 bridges during 2008, while it is expected that one-third of Swat's population has left Swat<sup>17</sup>. However, in February 2009, Pakistan again stopped its Swat operations<sup>18</sup>. The current situation seems much like Pakistan taking distempered action against the Taliban under US pressure, and yearning at every step to find an excuse for a ceasefire or negotiated settlement.

Anybody can discern that Pakistan's actions are half-hearted, as it attempts to appease Washington as well as its own civil Islamic population, though Pakistan is, no doubt, in a serious bind. Its police officers in Swat have either deserted or taken a long leave, and the Pakistan Army is loath to fight its own people, probably fearing mutinies within its own army. But, the foolish one in all this is the USA, which expects Pakistan to help it in FATA and Swat. To some extent, the USA has been successful in persuading Pakistan. Overall, the USA is living in an illusory fool's paradise, hoping that Pakistani pretensions are sincere. The USA is showing signs that it is absolutely unable to deal with the Afghan psychology. They obviously aren't like Maharaja Ranjit Singh who could plug the Afghans at the Khyber Pass.

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#### AFGHANISTAN'S POPPY TRADE

For one, it continues to astound this analyst that the main source of Taliban funding, opium grown in the fields of Afghanistan, is allowed to grow. Why is it that knowing the truth, the USA has not burned as many of those fields as possible? Do you think that the USA is held back by human rights considerations, where it refrains from taking away farmers' livelihoods? A warring nation would not limit

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17. Amir Mir, "Situation in the Swat Valley of Pakistan," *Raman's Terrorism Analysis*, <http://ramanterrorismanalysis.blogspot.com/2009/01/situation-in-swat-valley-of-pakistan.html>, Wednesday, January 21, 2009.

18. "Pakistan Army Halts Operations in Swat," Reuters, <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE51M42O20090223>, Mon Feb 23, 2009

**If family and blood relatives' benefits are considered personal benefits, as is often the case in a tight-knit society such as of the Pashtuns, Karzai is part of the drug trade problem.**

itself to such chicanery, knowing full well that wheat and corn can replace those crops. Though 20,000 acres (or 10 per cent) of poppy fields have reportedly been destroyed, there are numerous government officials and former warlords now in Hamid Karzai's government who encourage the trade. It also took the US Administration of Donald Rumsfeld some time to make the connection between poppy and war.<sup>19</sup> When aerial spraying of poppy fields was undertaken and further sought to be intensified, there was wide opposition from none other than Hamid Karzai.<sup>20</sup>

The excuse given by Karzai was that the aerial spraying would (1) damage other crops; and (2) damage his chances at reelection. It is quite evident that members of his own Cabinet influenced him to speak up like this, because they were themselves complicit in the drug trade. To complicate issues, Karzai's brother, Ahmed Wali Karzai, has been implicated in the drug trade.<sup>21</sup> As recently as July 2009, Hamid Karzai pardoned 10 convicted drug offenders because they were connected to well-to-do families.<sup>22</sup> Quite apparently, the whole of Afghanistan is corrupt and resistant to counter poppy eradication<sup>23</sup>. Other reports have tied Karzai himself as benefiting from the drug trade. If family and blood relatives' benefits are considered personal benefits, as is often the case in a tight-knit society such as of the Pashtuns, Karzai is part of the drug trade problem.

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19. James Risen, "Poppy Fields Are Now a Front Line in Afghanistan War," *The New York Times* of the Web Learning Network, <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/students/pop/articles/16drugs.html>, May 16, 2007.

20. Jonathan S. Landay, "Outcry Against Poisoning Afghanistan Poppies," *The Seattle Times*, October 26, 2007, <http://community.seattletimes.nwsource.com/archive/?date=20071026&slug=popy26>.

21. James Risen, "Reports Link Karzai's Brother to Afghanistan Heroin Trade", *The New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/05/world/asia/05afghan.html>, October 4, 2008.

22. "Washington Upset Over Karzai Drug Pardons," UPI.com, [http://www.upi.com/Emerging\\_Threats/2009/07/15/Washington-upset-over-Karzai-drug-pardons/UPI-655912476825707](http://www.upi.com/Emerging_Threats/2009/07/15/Washington-upset-over-Karzai-drug-pardons/UPI-655912476825707), July 15, 2009.

23. Jon Boone, "Hamid Karzai: Too Nice, too Weak - How West's Own Man Fell out of Favour", *The Guardian*, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/march/23/hamid-karzai-afghanistan>, March 23, 2009.

### OSAMA'S DANGEROUS INFLUENCE

Moreover, Osama bin Laden did not escape to the wilderness and beautiful mountains of Northern Kashmir and the Northwest Frontier of Pakistan to retire. His record confirms that he creates political havoc wherever he goes<sup>24</sup>. When in Sudan, he encouraged civil war, and the Darfur condition today is in no small amount owed to the seeds sowed by him back then, not to mention, of course, the role of China acting like a rogue nation. It is common history that he resorted to amassing a small army when he was fighting the Russians from Pakistani soil, and once he returned to Afghanistan in 1995, quickly moved to buy off the Taliban and take over the virtual reins of Taliban internal and foreign policy. He has advocated revolution in Saudi Arabia, where his family lives, though the lack of liberties in Saudi Arabia is well known. His nature is one of a troublemaker for the rest of the world, though in his mind, no doubt, and in the minds of many aggrieved individuals in the rest of the world, especially developing nations, he is probably a hero. But, what makes us think that he will sit calmly and quietly in peaceful meditation in Pakistan? To the contrary, he reportedly sought acquire to nukes and is plotting the destruction of America in what has been dubbed the *American Hiroshima*<sup>25</sup>. Nevertheless, the situation in Pakistan has only gotten worse after he crossed the Durand Line into Pakistan after the failed Tora Bora bombing by American warplanes in 2002. It is possible to conclude that the increased turmoil in Pakistan's FATA and Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) is in no small measure due entirely to his influence after entering Pakistan. It is quite apparent that Pakistan is in trouble simply to have bin Laden's presence there<sup>26</sup>. Pakistan has repeatedly claimed that Osama is not in Pakistan, yet,

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24. Wikipedia, "Osama bin Laden," [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osama\\_bin\\_Laden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osama_bin_Laden).

25. Paul Williams, *The Al Qaeda Connection* (New York: Prometheus Books, 2005), pp. 25-40, p. 78, pp. 191-200.

26. Reports of June 2008 of him dying of kidney disease must be taken with a pinch of salt, since that analysis was made thousands of miles away after looking at medical reports, and is likely an American disinformation campaign.

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while other reports claim him to be dead, there is no evidence for either<sup>27, 28</sup>. For all practical purposes, the hideous terrorism unleashed by Osama bin Laden has got Pakistan, Afghanistan, the USA, and the rest of the world in an undesirable clasp from which there is no let up as of yet.

#### THE FATE OF PAST PAKISTANI PRESIDENTS

President Musharaff of Pakistan escaped four attempts on his life by terrorist organisations. That he was forcefully pushed out, under duress, is no surprise. The past six Presidents and Prime Ministers of Pakistan before him had traumatic exits – two with death (Zulfiqar Bhutto was hanged; Zia ul-Haq's airplane was blown up in mid-air), two with exile (Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif), and two in shame after defeat in war (Ayub Khan and Yahya Khan).<sup>29</sup> Therefore, Zardari's fate is not at all secure. Besides, Gen Pervez Ashraf Kayani is oft reported to be the real power broker in Pakistan. However, rather than any one person or group ruling Pakistan, there is a strong consensus that "uncertainty" rules Pakistan; there is also a strong feeling that a "vacuum" rules the troubled state of Pakistan.<sup>30</sup> What makes this matter more dangerous and disturbing

27. George Stephanopoulos, "White House: 'Inconclusive' Whether Osama Alive or Dead," abc news <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/mar/23/hamid-karzai-afghanistan>, May 10, 2009.

28. For their own political reasons, Pakistan and Afghanistan make different claims. Karzai claims that Osama is hiding in the mountains between Afghanistan and Pakistan, obviously to ensure that US pressure is kept up in that region such that his continuation as President is more assured. Zardari claims that Osama is probably dead, since he hasn't shown up for eight years; obviously, Zardari says so to get the US to step breathing down his neck. US National Security Advisor, Gen Jim Jones, takes a path between those two, and believes that the evidence is inconclusive. Refer, *Ibid.*, p. 26.

29. "Generals Ruled Pakistan for Half its Existence," ExpressIndia.com, <http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/Generals-ruled-Pakistan-for-half-its-existence/244434/>, November 28, 2007.

30. Farzana Shaikh, "The Vacuum that Rules Pakistan," *The Independent*, <http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/farzana-shaikh-the-vacuum-that-rules-pakistan-1667546.html>, April 12, 2009.



than just the act of assassination of a President is that the terrorists have a suspected agenda of acquiring control over the nuclear assets of Pakistan.<sup>31</sup> Heavy demonstrations by Islamic extremists in early April 2007, barely 1,000 metres away from Musharaff's house in Islamabad, were testimony to the brewing sentiments and dangers in Pakistan. This was followed by Benazir's assassination in December 2007<sup>32</sup>. Add to this a pro-China military and a pro-Islamist public that do not see eye to eye. Moreover, with about 50 Pakistani nuclear warheads with long-range delivery capability that could conceivably fall into their possession, the Al Qaeda terrorists and associates will make Kim Jong Il and the Ayatollahs look like babies. Considering there are more than 10,000 militants in Pakistan, a potential attack and capture of a nuclear warhead and delivery system by them is not altogether impossible<sup>33, 34</sup>. All this is financed and fired by Afghani hashish and their medieval and despotic practices. This is what makes Pakistan the most dangerous nation in the world today. Pakistan is sitting atop an active volcano, and we haven't seen the full eruption yet.

#### **DRUGS AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS: A DEADLY COCKTAIL FROM AFGHANISTAN TO SOUTH AMERICA**

Pakistan is already in internal turmoil. The left arm of the government rides saddle with the Islamic extremists and terrorists, while the right arm doesn't feel strong enough to take on the left. To compound this, the right arm scarcely

31. Rolf Mowatt-Larssen, "Nuclear Security in Pakistan: Reducing the Risks of Nuclear Terrorism", Arms Control Association, [http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2009\\_07-08/Mowatt-Larssen](http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2009_07-08/Mowatt-Larssen), July/August 2009.

32. This event or something similar was probably predicted in numerous private circles, that Benazir was playing with her life in returning to Pakistan from exile.

33. Obviously, this is a major threat to India and its cities. Now with A. Q. Khan free, and possibly seeking revenge, his services may be rendered again to the Al Qaeda.

34. No doubt, there are hurdles for capturing nuclear weapons. First, the Pakistan Army has all nuclear facilities and mobile deployments under heavy military guard. Militants cannot find that easy to do, especially since the Pakistan Army firepower is heavier than what the militants can muster. Next, warheads are kept separate from missiles during peace-time: assembling them requires special talent that the militants may not have. Further, learning how to fire them accurately to a specific trajectory is another hurdle that the militants will have to learn. However, capture of nuclear material can be used in a nuclear ground explosion is a little easier than tipping them on missiles.

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knows what the left arm does; Pakistan is thus exhibiting bipolar disorder. All this while Afghan hashish, and heroin "choice number four" — the best in the world market—is smuggled through Pakistan to the rest of the world, aided and abetted by government insiders and the ISI. The infamous ISI surreptitiously shores up terrorist organisations that stir trouble in Indian Kashmir and plant bombs in trains in Spain, England, and Mumbai. Unemployment in Pakistan runs at a substantial 20 per cent in effective terms when underemployment is considered<sup>35</sup>, while an estimated 74 per cent live under the poverty level of \$2 per day<sup>36</sup>. With such economic conditions and frustrations, mixed with Islamic terrorists bent upon acquiring nuclear weapons, combined with an unstable government, Pakistan

is smoking not just hashish but potential nuclear fallout.

Not only that, Al Qaeda that found a safe haven in Pakistan, and has extended its reach to the "safe triangle" of Iguacu Falls that borders Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. The "Triangle" has been a lawless area for two decades and more. Shiite mosques became prominent there since the 1975 civil war in Lebanon when scores of Lebanese Shiites migrated there, an exodus that continued after the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. From the "Triangle," Al Qaeda and Hezbollah reportedly operate a base of drug smuggling and gun running into the USA through the porous Mexican border<sup>37</sup>.

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35. These estimates 'might' be conservative: underemployment is about 13.6 percent while unemployment is reported at 8.3 percent. See "Special Section: Underemployment in Pakistan," <http://209.85.173.132/search?q=cache:0cKkEDLdxPoJ:www.sbp.org.pk/reports/quarterly/FY06/third/Special.pdf+pakistan%27s+underemployment+level&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us>. And "Unemployment in Pakistan," SOCYBERTY, <http://www.socyberty.com/Economics/Unemployment-in-Pakistan.204693>, August 10, 2008.

36. Wikipedia, "Poverty in Pakistan," [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty\\_in\\_Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty_in_Pakistan). India's poverty levels are actually slightly higher where 77% live under \$2 per day.

37. Williams, n. 25, pp. 119-137

Further, the Albanian mafia established a strong foothold in Latin America in the late 1990s, where they ousted the Colombian mafia from preeminence in the trade. To assist in drug smuggling in Latin America, the Albanian mafia needed guns that were readily supplied by their drug suppliers, Al Qaeda, and their cousins, Hezbollah, who had already created a foothold in the "Triangle." The drugs supplied by Al Qaeda came from Afghanistani poppy fields. In this regard, Osama bin Laden is said by Brazilian intelligence to have visited the "Triangle" in 1998 – his only visit to the American hemisphere<sup>38</sup>. Now, Al Qaeda and Hezbollah supposedly freely train Hispanic and Muslim volunteers in armaments in the "Triangle," and then send them with suitcase nukes across the Mexican border into the USA with the help of the Honduran *Mara Salvatrucha*, the largest crime syndicate in the USA today. These volunteers merge into sleeper cells inside the USA and await the day they will be called upon by the mighty Osama to destroy the United States, in what he dubs the *American Hiroshima*<sup>39</sup>. Al Qaeda, thus, discovered an ingenious method of subverting the USA, the supporter of its arch enemy, Israel. Now we can partly understand why the USA is so intricately caught up in Afghanistan and why it needs to continue its campaign there.

Mike Tenet, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), reported to George W. Bush on October 11, 2001, that at least two suitcase nukes had found their way into the United States<sup>40</sup>, and in July 2007, President George W. Bush spoke publicly of this danger for the first time, something the US government already knew for six years<sup>41</sup>. Any earlier disclosure possibly had the risk of generating panic.

#### AMERICAN HIROSHIMA: THE REAL THREAT TO USA

The grave and imminent danger to the USA is the simultaneous blowing up of one dozen American cities by suitcase-size nuclear bombs of two to ten

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38. Ibid., p. 132

39. Ibid.

40. Ibid., p. 94

41. It is not impossible to imagine that the US penetrated sleeper cells in mainland USA in the aftermath of the introduction of the Patriot Act, and apprehended suitcase nukes.

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kiloton yield. Intelligence agencies around the world, including the political Hans Blix of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), all agree that bin Laden has these “suitcase” nukes, acquired from the Chechen rebels, who stole or secretly bought them from Russian stores in the aftermath of the break-up of the Soviet empire<sup>42</sup>. The former General of the USSR responsible for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, Alexander Lebed, who later became head of the Russian nuclear weapons management agency, reported on CBS that the USSR had produced 132 suitcase-size nuclear bombs of which only 48 were accountable for<sup>43</sup>. It cannot be known if that was a disinformation trick. However, Al Qaeda is reported to have purchased 20 nuclear warheads in 1998 from Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine,

and Russia, one tactical nuclear weapon of which was purportedly attempted to be used against Israel in 2001 by a Pakistani agent who was intercepted by the Mossad at the Israeli border<sup>44</sup>. Thus, the evidence adds up piece by piece. In addition, fissile material was stated to be acquired by Al Qaeda from the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. Money for these nukes was paid for through hashish, cocaine, and heroin produced in Afghanistan, smuggled into Pakistan with the ISI’s help, taken across to Europe by the Turkish mafia, the *bubas*, and sold in Europe by the violent Albanian mafia<sup>45</sup>.

What should be a rude awakening is that former Pakistani nuclear scientist A. Q. Khan allegedly sold centrifuge technology to the Brazilian government of Lula da Silva, a lifelong Marxist, and long time ally of Fidel Castro, thus,

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42. Williams, n. 25, “The Loose Nukes,” pp. 81-96, p.93.

43. Ibid., p.87.

44. Ibid., p. 96.

45. Ibid., pp. 59-64.



introducing nuclear weapons in the USA's hemisphere<sup>46</sup>. The Hudson Institute, a think-tank in Washington, DC, expressed fears that Brazil, Venezuela, and Cuba are possibly forming a new axis of evil in the backdoor of the US, which could make the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 look like child's play<sup>47</sup>. Lula has been one of the most acerbic critics of the US action in Afghanistan; Venezuela's Chavez hates the US, nationalised all foreign oil companies in June 2007, and reportedly awarded a \$1 million gift to Al Qaeda in the wake of 9/11<sup>48</sup>; in addition, the anti-US tirade of Cuba is well known, though Barack Obama is showing signs of easing up on Cuba<sup>49</sup>. Colin Powell visited Brazil when reports came in that Dr. Khan had been in contact with Brazil. We can now understand the importance of George W. Bush's March 2007 visit to Latin America against this backdrop, and of the support to the Colombian government against Venezuela. While the world remains fixated on Iran and North Korea, Brazil continues a clandestine nuclear programme.<sup>50</sup> For instance, Brazil prevented IAEA inspectors from conducting a full inspection of their nuclear facility at Resende.<sup>51</sup> Moreover, Pakistan is now implicated in Myanmar's nuclear ambitions.<sup>52</sup> Incontrovertibly, Pakistan proliferated nuclear technology to North Korea, which could be proliferating it

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46. Ibid., p. 136.

47. Ibid., p. 137.

48. Ibid., p. 146-147, said to be revealed by a Venezuelan Air Force Major who was the personal pilot of Hugo Chavez. The gift was reported channeled through the Venezuelan Ambassador to India; cited in Ivan Osorio, "Chavez's Bombshell," *National Review*, January 8, 2003.

49. "Obama Eases Curbs on Cuba Travel," BBC News, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7997063.stm>, April 13, 2009.

50. Latest reports now indicate that Myanmar may be getting into the game with North Korea's help. See Dennis D. Gray, "Is Myanmar Going Nuclear with North Korea's Help?" *The Washington Post*, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/21/AR2009072100256.html>, July 21, 2009.

51. Williams, n. 25, p. 136.

52. Larry Jagan, "Myanmar Drops a Nuclear 'Bombshell'," *Asia Times Online*, [http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast\\_Asia/IE24Ae02.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast_Asia/IE24Ae02.html), May 24, 2007.

to Myanmar. It is a hostile world, becoming more contentious and oppugnant every day. It seems that all nations opposed to the USA have nuclear weapons, are proliferating them, or seeking to acquire them. Nevertheless, Pakistan seems to have a connection with all of them, proliferating nuclear technology to Iran, as well. Furthermore, A. Q. Khan's nuclear espionage and trade network extended across the globe, East and West, northern and southern hemispheres, and spanned every Muslim country<sup>53</sup>. All terror appears to originate now from Pakistan, including the assistance to Uighur Muslims<sup>54</sup>.

#### PAKISTAN'S AL QAEDA CONNECTION

On February 4, 2004, Dr. Khan admitted that he sold nuclear technology to Libya, Iran, and North Korea<sup>55</sup>. Further, there is little to no doubt that A. Q. Khan had an Al Qaeda connection. At least 13 senior scientists from his Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) were involved, with two of them spending time in Pakistani custody, two escaping from Pakistan, and nine absconding. Dr. Sultan Bashiruddin Mahmood, a former scientist at KRL, admitted in 2001 that he met bin Laden and al-Zawahiri; in addition, Dr. Abdul Majid Chaudry, a chief engineer at Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission, admitted to meeting bin Laden and other Al Qaeda officials to discuss the construction of nuclear weapons. Both of them were placed in custody and interrogated by the ISI and CIA; however, both of them were "quietly released" by the Pakistani government after a few months<sup>56</sup>. After the raid by Italian authorities in 2003 on *BBC China*, a cargo ship that was carrying nuclear technology to Libya, there is tell-tale evidence that Khan personally met with bin Laden<sup>57</sup>. Further, it is inconceivable to any political and military analyst, contrary to what Musharaff claimed, that the Pakistani government knew nothing of A. Q. Khan's illicit dealings. Pakistan is riding two wild horses at the same time —

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53. Williams, n. 25, p. 115; See map of the A. Q. Khan network in Gordon Corera, *Shopping for Bombs*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

54. Editorial, "Uighur Terrorism in Pakistan," *Uighur Post*, <http://uighurpost.blogspot.com/2006/06/editorial-uighur-terrorism-in-pakistan.html>, June 26, 2006

55. Williams, n. 25, p. 114.

56. Ibid., pp. 105-116.

57. Corera, n. 53.

Al Qaeda and the USA — and it is definitely only a matter of time before it loses balance, with severe consequences for the whole world.

### CRIME-TERRORISM NEXUS

The connection between worldwide crime and terrorism has never been closer and stronger, and never more dangerous. Add to this the state-sponsored terrorism by the axis of evil nations that are aiding and joining forces with the terrorists. China, too, trained the Taliban<sup>58</sup>, and today, Chinese armaments are found in Talibani arsenals and continue to be supplied covertly. Combined, these dangers are much too serious for the US and other freedom loving nations to ignore, yet they have been relatively unaggressive on the job, in spite of the Afghanistan and Iraq actions, and UN sanctions against Iran and North Korea that have links to terrorist organisations. The US has been simply taken for a ride vis-à-vis Pakistan, not only now but for five decades, and has been merely watching while Pakistan now allows the USA's destruction to be plotted on its soil, claiming to be able to do nothing about it. The US is unable to see reality as far as Pakistan is concerned. In addition, the US is simply unable to fully understand the thinking of rebel Muslim groups resident in Pakistan, preferring to accept their *promises* time and time again rather than face-off with the devious challenge they are really facing.

The danger of terrorism joining forces with organised crime, with infiltration into the USA across the Mexican border by potential terrorists in the pay of Al Qaeda, in turn, aided and abetted by Pakistan's dreaded intelligence agency, the ISI, has created a world where nothing seems more serious than the next potential nuclear terror attack activated by sleeper cells in the USA<sup>59</sup>. It is apparently time to nip the nuclear proliferation problem in the bud — which requires some guts and sacrifices — but has its current roots and support in Pakistan. It was for good reason that the US Congress House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, was recommending since March 2007 to drawdown the campaign

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58. During the anti-Soviet Afghanistan campaign in the 1980s, the USA itself asked China to train the freedom fighters. China was supposedly happy to do this to counter Soviet influence. After 9/11, China is happy to do this to counter US influence.

59. Williams, n. 25, pp. 171-190.

**The Afghanistan action is not an easy one for the USA to manage and fight.**

in Iraq and refocus on Afghanistan, next door to Pakistan's troublesome NWFP, something that the US White House only began to consider seriously in June 2008. It is for this reason that the current Democratic President and former presidential candidate, Barack Obama, was recommending since 2007 to bomb the Taliban hideouts in Pakistan, and during 2008, mentioned repeatedly that he would increase US forces in Afghanistan if elected to power. His January 2009 decision to send 17,000 more troops to Pakistan, and follow that up with another possible 16,000 troops must be seen in this backdrop. The US is threatened at home owing to what is happening in Pakistan. The reason is that Pakistan is apparently nurturing and supporting terror, the like of which will shake the world as never before unless curtailed right now. Time is not on the side of civilised nations in this regard.

**AFGHANISTAN TODAY**

The Afghanistan action is not an easy one for the USA to manage and fight. For one, there can be no easily imagined conceivable victory for the US against the Pashtuns, who are tenacious and patient fighters<sup>60</sup>. Moreover, each aerial bomb that the USA drops seems to draw more fighters to the Taliban. The Swat and Waziristan actions by Pakistan have not dwindled the total number of Talibani fighters; rather, their number has increased. The Pashtuns are under attack in their own homeland, and it is not difficult to see that they will not roll over and give in to the Americans, or any invader for that matter, for whatever reason at all. Afghanistan is the only nation that has the reputation of being the graveyard of empires<sup>61</sup>. The Pashtuns are no pushovers, and it must be remembered that the Pashtun warriors were accepted as a martial race by the British. It should also be remembered that the Pashtuns ruled India for 600 years before being ousted by the Mughal Turks.

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60. Richard Oppel, Jr., "Iraq Veterans find Taliban Formidable," *Star Bulletin*, July 26, 2009.

61. Seth G. Jones, *In the Graveyard of Empires: America's War in Afghanistan* (W.W. Norton and Company, 2009).



For all the six decades since Pakistan's independence, Pakistan has been unable to enforce its rule and law in the NWFP. The Pashtuns living there are fiercely independent and will resist any outsider that aims to change their way of life and independence. Unless Pakistan resorts to genocide, which is a human rights violation, it is hard to see how the Pashtuns can be subdued. Therefore, the problem is quite intractable, though efforts can continue to tame the beast. It is not known if they can be bought out for a few billion dollars, because sovereignty strikes one as being more important to the Pashtuns than money. Jason Burke writes "[T]hough some fight for cash, interviews with captured and active Taliban reveal the insurgents to be less motivated by economics than many think. Power, politics, culture, feuds, ethnicity, tribal vendettas and Afghan history also play a big part." It is for this reason that Pakistani forces are having such an impossible time keeping the peace after seemingly winning the battles. Nearly two million fled Swat at the outbreak of hostilities in February 2009, of which only 478,000 have been estimated to have returned. The wealthy landowners who drove the local economy have decided to stay away. No one can claim that Pakistan has been able to bring Swat back to normalcy or that the Taliban fighters have been defeated and disarmed. The Pashtuns are not to be messed with, and messing with them is akin to bringing trouble on oneself, which is why Pakistan is now in deep trouble. Remember, it was the Pashtun tribesmen who invaded India in 1947 after the Hindu Maharaja of Kashmir came to odds with the Muslim World War II veterans of Poonch who sought arms from the arms manufacturers of the NWFP.<sup>62</sup> The Pashtuns will pursue the defence of their lifestyle, the defence of their brethren, and will attack if their lives

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62. Victoria Schofield, *Kashmir in Conflict* (New York: I. B. Tauris and Co., Ltd., 2003).

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are threatened. Unless they can be convincingly defeated in war, there seems little other solution to the prevalent problem.

It is owing to the inherent difficulties in fighting this war that American forces aim to shift their strategy to win the hearts and minds of the Afghans through diplomatic and political initiatives. While the Americans may be fighting to restore normalcy in Afghanistan, that is not what the Pashtuns want. Hence, the two forces continue to see across each other.<sup>63</sup>

#### ACTION DECISIONS

If we adopt the traditional approach that action should be taken only when something happens, it might be too late to prevent the next potential nuclear holocaust. Does the world really want to wait for the smoking gun that will send the world's economy into a tailspin, with untold consequences on health and survival (not that the current economy has any different trends<sup>64</sup>) or is a preponderance of evidence sufficient to take precautionary measures? There is enough evidence with the US State Department that Pakistan is a country that can break up any day and become the world's leading terrorist nation overnight, in succession to the erstwhile Talibani Afghanistan.

America is cautious to apply overt preemptive military action against hostile forces inside Pakistan because of world opinion and internal ignorance. It also seems that world public opinion, as well as internal public opinion in the USA, both ranting against US campaigns overseas, are unwittingly siding with the terrorists, crime agencies, and axis of evil nations. The USA's restraint

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63. Jason Burke, "Casualties Rise as Afghanistan Strategy Shifts," *The Japan Times*, July 20, 2009.

64. However, it is most likely that the current world economic crisis will reverse if left to itself. The danger is that the economic duress can be exacerbated by political upheaval and terrorist activity.

rekindles memories of their decision not to invade North Vietnam, an action that ended in military defeat for the USA. Is it worthwhile to let the arrogant USA fail, only for India and Pakistan to lose their own freedom to the Taliban for another few centuries to come? Countries in the region obviously have to gauge which side their bread is buttered. The lay public doesn't realise that the USA's campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan are designed to impede and arrest (1) the drug trade and terrorist breeding grounds centred in Pakistan's NWFP; and (2) the nuclear threat to the world, centred in Iran and Pakistan, but more so in wily Pakistan. Many think that the US is simply seeking revenge, but there is much more in the equation. Not only should the civilised world realise the nuclear dangers they are facing, which can make the threats of global warming pale in comparison to the cold winter of a nuclear fallout, but we should sincerely hope that America doesn't wake up too late. George W. Bush acted entirely in the security interests of his country by invading Afghanistan, and Barack Obama is apparently doing the same by sending more troops there, aiming to increase their numerical strength five-fold by 2010.

It seems quite sure that India, like the USA, will not escape the unholy schemes of the terrorists against it. It is not too distant in the future when Communist inspired Naxalites may join forces with the terror agencies operating from Pakistan, if this nexus has not already been established. Do you think [predominantly] Hindu India can escape the dogmatic wrath of misguided Muslim cross-border terrorists now or in the near future? I would not at all be surprised if Al Qaeda has already transferred one or two nuclear suitcase bombs to sleeper cells in India with the help of the ISI via Tibet and Nepal. Quite simply put, the Indian public's anti-US and pro-Arab sentiments need a reversal, since India, the USA, and Israel are all in the same boat together when it comes to combating external terrorism<sup>65</sup>.

## CLOSURE

It is a strange character of a nation that knowingly waits to retaliate till calamity strikes, when the calamity is a near certainty. This is quite

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65. Amarjit Singh, "India's Achilles Heel," *Realpolitik*, March 2007, pp. 10-12.

**If the strong bastion of liberty and freedom that is the USA goes down, personal and religious freedom in this world will fall as well. Pakistan is dispensable in this context.**

disturbing, given that the lives of Americans and Indians and freedom loving nations are at stake. In a strange sense, the major danger in America today is America waiting for the mushroom cloud either on its own soil, on an ally's, or on its soldiers in a foreign country, rather than the terrorists barking rhetorically of the theoretical destruction of America in public squares. The former is an impending, short-term possibility to which full and immediate attention must be directed — while

the latter is only an emotional, long-term philosophy, which the US needs to stand on alert against. It is time that the US quickly and fully defangs those who plot against its very survival rather than wait till the terrorists threaten it by the throat<sup>66</sup>. Thus, the USA needs to not only increase its forces five-fold in Afghanistan to fight the terror emanating from Pakistan, it needs to increase its forces somewhat ten-fold after drawing out its forces in Iraq. Next, there is little to no solution to Pakistani pretensions unless the USA steps across the Durand Line to fight the Taliban directly in their hideouts. Not doing so risks a repeat of the results of not stepping into North Vietnam. We need only remember that if the strong bastion of liberty and freedom that is the USA goes down, personal and religious freedom in this world will fall as well. Pakistan is dispensable in this context.

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66. It is a principle in international relations theory that nuclear nations do not go to war with each other. In the case of Pakistan, it is wise for the USA to reconsider that principle since Pakistani missiles don't yet pose a threat to US cities. US forces in Kandahar and other bases in Afghanistan are within Pakistani missile and nuclear warhead range, but when a preemptive defanging operation is conducted by the USA, soldier casualties can be planned to be minimised by sending them across the border into Pakistan.