Nature Of 21st Century's Global Conflicts Under The Global Powers' Geoeconomic Strategies And Islamic Ideology For Peace

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Abstract:

The 21st century has brought with it a multitude of challenges such as food shortage, economic instability, social unrest, cultural changes, political uncertainty, and intense global competition. However, the gravest issue facing humanity is the shortage of water, which has led to regional and global power struggles and even water wars. In this century, territorial expansion has been replaced by new monopolistic strategies that have altered political and economic directions and preferences, with emerging global or superpowers holding new global-sized trade visions. Deforestation is the second most significant global issue, leading to the degradation of human and biodiversity life and the transformation of greenery into desertification. This research article aims to discuss the nature of global conflicts in the 21st century and their resolution, taking into account the global powers' preferences and Islamic ideology for universal peace. The article explores the complex entanglements between national assets, national power, and anti-power in resolving these global challenges.

Introduction

In the 21st century, new economic, political, social, technological, and security challenges have emerged. In the 20th century, nations competed mainly for territorial aggrandizement, but in the 21st century, the definition of superpower has changed, and the competition has shifted towards private companies under government supervision in the economic and trade fields. New superpowers are emerging, and imperialism is taking new forms. As a result, the idea of a new world order is losing its grip on people's minds worldwide. Slave nations are shedding their shackles and adopting new policies to build relations with emerging trade powers, while some weak but developing nations are proving to be game changers due to their abundant natural resources, strategic location, or low-level technology. These game changers are playing a significant role in changing the direction of global affairs, rather than facing a series of global risks.

However, the Islamic world, despite possessing countless resources and advanced economies, faces a range of complicated and serious threats and risks, including global economic risks such as asset bubble bursts, industrial collapses, economic debt crises, illicit economic activities, prolonged stagnation, and severe commodity shocks. Additionally, there are global environmental risks such as biodiversity losses, ecosystem collapses, climate action failures, natural resource crises, and man-made environmental damage, along with geopolitical risks such as interstate relations' fracture, multilateral institutions' collapse, and domestic conflicts. Furthermore, there are societal risks such as social security system mismanagement, employment crises, public infrastructure failure, infectious and epidemic diseases, and large-scale immigration, as well as technological risks such as critical informational infrastructure breakdowns, digital inequalities, cyber security failures, and technology governance's failure[1].

Islam offers a suitable, corruption-free system as the best solution to these serious issues. The Islamic Zakat system collection and distribution among the needy is the best solution to poverty and its related issues. This system has proven to be superior to capitalist, communist, and feudalism systems at all stages, as it is divine and natural[2].

Necessary resources for life survival

The survival of states depends on the best economic system, which is an inevitable and integral part of a nation's life, as all other systems seek its shelter. Although the world is full of all kinds of systems, Islam has paid special heed to this system. Regarding the best economic and social system, Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) taught comprehensive guidelines. Due to the natural and divine system, there is no possibility of human error in all Islamic systems, while all other man-made economic systems are unacceptable and have created a significant gap

between human classes and nations. Allah Almighty directs the Islamic economic system towards the welfare of the whole humanity all over the world. According to the Quran, "Allah has made business legitimate for you"[3]. Islam, for boosting the economy, has given the best marketing, trade, investment, exchange, and wages system, as well as a banking system.

The material that occurs naturally in the world in any form and is an integral part of the best social setup to boost human life includes pure and fresh water sources, glaciers, lakes for fishing and for several other purposes, flowing rivers, marine traffic channels through seas and oceans, rail and road traffic, air traffic and marine traffic, pollution-free air, sunshine, warm water oceans and seas, grass fields for pastures and meadows, large and green forests to develop the timber market, food items for human survival, fertile lands for cash crops, gardens, and vegetables production, fishing on a large scale for trade purposes, wildlife for several industrial, economic, and medical purposes, biodiversity for human life's fertility, mountains and minerals for industrial as well as trade purposes, even deserts for medical and national security purposes, as well as renewable or non-renewable sources for national and international trade purposes. Regarding social system upgrading, employment (creating and improving new jobs/departments through government or private jobs and business chances) is a strong socio-economic policy pillar. These sources, keeping in view their quality and quantity, enable a nation to determine its social, medical, economic, political, defense, and global governing power, and then its economic system is followed as a progressive symbol and model to reach its destination.

The Issues Vexing to humanity

The issues vexing humanity include extreme and increasing temperatures resulting in melting poles and glaciers; ethnic and religious conflicts; illegal and extreme arms escalation; human

trafficking; illegal international trade (smuggling); border conflicts, also known as territorial aggrandizement, which lead to combat and destabilization; anti-powers' social and political involvement; rapidly increasing population; relational abortions; serious pollution of the environment resulting from deforestation and several other environmental hazards; misunderstandings and religious narrow-mindedness; racial and religious issues that have encircled global progress, peace, and prosperity; environmental problems and conflicts over natural resources that perpetually destabilize community ties and fuel conflicts such as land and water scarcity; poverty resulting from economic mismanagement locally, regionally, and globally, which challenges sustainable development and is a source of conflicts domestically, locally, nationally, regionally, and globally[4]; inflation due to trade hegemonic global policies; corruption, which paralyzes the social system, leads to poverty and social evils, and upsets social unity, as well as leads a nation and country to decline economically, socially, administratively, and politically; misuse of public goods by public officials for private ends, corrupt machinery destroys the industrial system of a country badly, and develops bribery and embezzlement that destroy institutional management/administration on a large scale; more so in the absence of checks and balances, corruption encircles the political and bureaucratic system[5]; fraud, another social evil that covers both bribery and embezzlement, and supports a lot of illegal things nationally and internationally; terrorism due to lose economic policies and kidnapped administrative body through corrupt groups; dying rivers as well as canal systems and resulting water wars; religious misunderstandings that are leading the globe to social destruction; the world order always addressed to the global disunity; attempts to achieve under monopoly strategies that always lead to global trade hindrance and political complications; oil and gas

shortage under global oil and gas politics that lead to hybrid wars; weak leadership that leads to superpower slavery; strategic policies created global harmonic complications and misunderstandings; falling health standards all over the world and silent powers' global special health-economic policies, health and political policies, which are a great hindrance to human beings' unity (union), global peace, progress, and prosperity because the "health-economic policy makers and controllers" are a special group that has a special global agenda under which it wants to achieve special goals in the regard of global health, global economy, global medical science and security and human survival sources. In regard to all the worldwide conflicts, 60% of conflicts were fought only in 2020 due to the worldwide pandemic COVID-19's extreme waves. Several times, the world was called to ceasefires, but powers, ignoring all rules and regulations, carried on their political conflicts, which resulted in civilian populations facing the hardest circumstances, and all over the world, wide-spreading famine and drought and severe worldwide economic degradation[6]. Civilian wars used to break out with grave risks, and populated areas were hit by explosive weapons that destroyed national infrastructure such as urban housing, medical centers, educational institutions, industrial zones, airports, harbors, warehouses, roads, bridges, important buildings, defense points, and resulting in 88% global population displacement and migration occurred on a large scale with serious and grave risks[7]. Arab world, Gulf region, Asian as well as African civilians' casualties link to these political governing bodies' required policies during pandemic COVID-19, when ceasefires and recommended safety measures were rejected, and political objectives were preferred by global peace-keeping responsible powers[8]. During this time, humanitarian workers were violated and abased continuously, with asset loss in conflicted countries because global check and balance was

also being rejected for specific purposes to win secret games. During this period, humanitarian workers faced continuous violations, including the loss of assets, in conflicted countries where global checks and balances were being rejected for specific purposes related to secret games. As a result, peacekeeping rules, regulations, and responsibilities were widely and openly ignored by the responsible powers' machinery. In 2020, 117 humanitarian workers were killed in conflicted areas while performing their duties, of whom 108 were national staff members. Additionally, healthcare workers are continuously attacked and tortured. According to the World Health Organization, 182 health workers in 22 countries lost their lives during armed conflicts in weak power areas such as Burkina Faso, DRC, Somalia, and Syria[9].

Tribal, racial, and religious conflicts, along with an insecure environment and conflicting groups' violational activities against humanitarian workers' struggles and deeds, have led to the destruction of national assets. Administrative obstructions created by bureaucracy, terrorism, sanctions imposed by superpowers, and political hindrances have delegitimized humanitarian responses. All these negative adventures have complicated the lives of upcoming generations, making it difficult for them to achieve their goals and create new chances to improve their lifestyle with new and improved technological and economic systems.

It is being observed that the 21st century is a century of global-sized challenges with significant changes, one of which is COVID-19. It is a great global-sized and border-crossing challenge that has damaged global security, economic and social systems. National borders were closed, national and international flights were suspended, and economic, trade, educational institutions were locked down due to countermeasures. This caused delays, additional costs, and partial suspensions of some humanitarian activities and humanitarian crises,

affecting marketing, economy, tourism, educational system, medical, governing system, regional, national, and global relations, media, and reliable information spheres adversely[10].

Causes of conflicts or misunderstandings:

All coastal states, oil and gas-producing countries, and the entire Asia-Oceania region are strategically important for global trade powers due to their abundant natural resources such as oil, gas, uranium, minerals, and agriculture, as well as their economies. To secure their position and gain access to these resources, superpowers need to deploy military or station armed forces in these regions for a long time[11]. In the 21st century, the US changed its approach to securing these regions by concluding defense and economic agreements with littoral states such as Japan, India, South Korea, Australia, and Vietnam to secure maritime security and assure stability and free trade routes in the seas surrounding the Strait of Malacca[12]. Similar situations have occurred in Gulf and African states under global powers' military and strategic policies.

David Lai believes that maintaining firm control of dominant nations and their powerful allies may guarantee global peace and stability. However, challenges always remain a part of human life. If the dominant, powerful, or global controlling powers are dissatisfied with the existing international order, they may stand against it to save their dominance and increase their national power[13].

American policy-makers always compared American administrations' commitments with those of other countries and nations post-World War II. However, changes still occurred in the 21st century, and numerous instruments that were previously favored in Washington to exert influence abroad are no longer effective. Many challenges began to arise, such as the emergence of China as a new global power[14].

The US has started to reform its administrative, economic, and political structures seriously under new American foreign policy, but it is failing to maintain its global power balance. Asian and African nations have changed their mindset, economy, and politics under China's vision for liberty awareness under the global trade system.

According to a Congressional Research Service report, American military, diplomatic, and economic initiatives have always been part of one package. The US utilizes various tools of economic, medical, trade, military, and political power to create strategic influence for future planning in target regions[15].

Economic competition between China and America has created a lot of misunderstandings and mismanagement between the two nations. According to Mearsheimer, America should support in the background and let China's neighbors assume most of the burden of containing China with new complexities. American power wants to see China's economic, medical, and security decline considerably, even if it negatively impacts the American economic, security, and medical system[16].

According to Charmaine Misalucha, America prioritizes Asian nations to sustain its global leadership, secure its global economic and national interests, boost its economic, military, and political values, increase the world power's applications practically, strengthen bilateral security alliances, deepen work relationships with joining alliances, engage in multilateral institutions, expand economic investments, forge a broad-based military presence, advance democratic systems globally, and save human rights[17].

China is supporting its soft-power ventures financially through bilateral relations, developing their public welfare projects and providing countered funding for institutional development of American alternatives sponsored economic order. In this way, China is delivering lag-behind pledges and even in aid commitments' decline[18].

However, China will prove to be the most important aid source and investor to boost third-world national economies and social status[19]. According to Yuan Yang and Tom Mitchell, China's global economic system is much bigger after its tremendous growth spurt than it was before the 21st century[20].

Islamic Strategies for Peace

Islamic strategies for peace are based on various sources, including happiness, social justice, political justice, good health, human ideals, and culture. These elements are essential to establish peace domestically, regionally, and globally. They create social harmony among nations and foster cooperation, mental satisfaction, brotherhood, economic equality, and economic and trade opportunities. Every peace messenger, including the last Prophet of Allah, Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W.W), taught these rules to his followers. Allah allows the use of the sword against all kinds of evils that undermine social values and education empty of soul, as Allah never wants injustice, human violation, destruction of universal management, and peace. Despite claims by anti-Muslim powers that wars on a large scale have ended after the Cold War[21], the reality is different. However, all 193 member states of the United Nations have ratified at least two of the nine core human rights treaties, and over 80% of states have ratified seven. The responsibility for honoring, protecting, and promoting human rights lies with states, which translate global norms into rules and regulations, strong policies related to the economy and politics, and public welfare programs[22]. Moreover, approximately 33 regional economic and 29 intergovernmental organizations are working according to the global size peace and security agenda[23]. Well-functioning government, equitable distribution of resources, free flow of information, good relations with neighbors, high levels of human capital, acceptance of the rights of others, low levels of corruption, and a sound

business environment are eight highly interconnected factors that interact in varied and complex ways and serve as strong pillars for building global positive peace[24].

The Secretary-General of the United Nations encourages member states to explore innovative financing mechanisms for peace-building activities. These include global peace agreements, global trade agreements, public-private partnerships, global faith-based organizations and public welfare foundations, social impacts or peace ties, micro-levies, tax-based revenue generations, global corporate partnerships, and blended finances[25]. This cluster of innovative financing mechanisms is a strong pillar to tackle the issues and problems of conflict-affected countries directly.

The United Nations is a global institution that facilitates and brings expertise, contextual as well as functional new knowledge, enhances the financial structure with capabilities, leverages great alignments and accelerations. Investing in conflict-affected areas and contributing to enhancing domestic, regional, and global economic growth rate, reconstructing and creating jobs, the private sector is directly addressing the conflicting drivers through enhancing social cohesion. The private sector, through employer business and with the cooperation of worker organizations, is promoting labor rights and social dialogues in conflicted situations and contributing to participatory democratic constructional procedures under good governance.

Companies are conducting enhanced human rights in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to prevent their operations from fueling conflicts. The International Labor Organization (ILO), the Jordan Chamber of Industry, the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, the Ministry of Labor, and other state agencies, international donors, and civil society organizations are supporting programs to tackle

the Syrian refugees' crisis. These programs have created more than 130,000 jobs for victims, and more programs are being initiated to promote social status, develop agriculture, improve manufacturing, and infrastructures[26].

Pakistan's role in the maintenance of global peace and security

According to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Pakistan plays an important role in maintaining global peace and security through its participation in UN peacekeeping operations and has become a hub among Asian countries. The world is facing numerous security challenges, including domestic unrest, crime, terrorism, climate change, and cyber threats, which have disrupted social harmony. There are also political risks between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Pakistan has been providing humanitarian aid to Afghan refugees to address this issue.

Pakistan has also reframed its new security policies, which emphasize economic and human rights security, and have been appreciated in the context of global security against human rights violations and regional conflicts. Pakistan's diplomacy and solidarity are hoped to be helpful in promoting global stability and conflict resolution through security dialogues with the UN. The UN pledges to work with Pakistan to build global peace, stability, and security through cooperation[27].

Conclusion:

The attempts, policies, and planning of global powers to address issues related to human welfare are mostly limited to paper or oral agreements, with little practical implementation. The little work that is done is often only for short-term benefits related to a specific field. In reality, every power wants to enhance its business and economy in any way possible, which often means supporting allies. No power wants to interfere with another's issues. Therefore, every power needs to maintain relations with weaker or

stronger allies. These relationships are established through diplomacy under economic, trade, and security agreements. To enhance political and economic relations, powers have to adjust their foreign policies according to their allies' foreign policies and accept their handling of issues. After establishing political relations, superpowers take an interest in weaker countries' issues by deploying NGOs and public welfare organizations to required places in specific fields. The United Nations is a global political institution that operates according to the wishes of P5 (China, Russia, France, Britain, and America) and is responsible for global issues such as border disputes, territorial, trade, governing issues of Muslim countries, African states' domestic and global economic, social, racial, and religious issues, border disputes between China and neighboring countries, the Kashmir issue between Pakistan and India, the Palestine-Israel issue, hybrid wars, global water issues, global medical issues, racial issues, religious issues, oceanic states' issues, and American involvement in oceans worldwide, including piracy and military stationing. Other great global trade powers follow the United States of America's interest and entry into seas and oceanic trade under global politics. Despite having power, control, ability, and access, these powers have never taken a deep interest in weaker countries' issues because they have some secret policies that have the same purpose among them for world order's achievements. All powers want to maintain a "power balance" under economic and military capabilities.

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