

# ISSI News

## **Dr Rasul Bakhsh Rais Lectures at The Command and Staff College, Quetta August 27, 2013.**

The Command and Staff College, Quetta invited Dr Rasul Bakhsh Rais give a talk on "Evolution of International Political Order".

### **Abstract:**

Since the Peace of Westphalia in 1658, a state-centered international order has emerged. But many changes over the past two centuries, notably industrialization and shifts in balance of power, the multiplicity of actors, new technologies and their military uses have impacted greatly on the shaping and reshaping of the world political order. The number of great powers at any time and their aspirations for power and influence are some other elements in the making of the present and past world orders. The world has witnessed at least three major world political orders--European balance of power system that collapsed with the two major wars. And then we saw a bipolar system with the rise of the Soviet Union and the United States after 1945. The two great powers established two rival military alliances--NATO and Warsaw Pact, created spheres of influence and got into nuclear arms race. This generated a climate of cold war between them. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the bipolar system gave rise to a unipolar system. The United States remains the sole superpower and often acts as a global hegemon. On military and strategic issues we see American dominance but on issues of technology and economy the world is moving toward a multipolar order. Also we cannot discount the power of globalisation and its role in the liberalization of global trade, transmission of ideas and formation of global networks of civil society. Consequently, states are not the only actors on the world stage and military is not the only means of influence and power.