

Report

“Subversion in the Islamic World: Is Pakistan Next?”

September 18, 2013



**THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES,
ISLAMABAD**

“Subversion in the Islamic World: Is Pakistan Next?”

The Institute of Strategic Studies organized a public talk under its Distinguished Lecture Series titled “Subversion of Islamic world: Is Pakistan next?” The talk was chaired by Dr. Rasul Bakhsh Rais, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad. An eminent Pakistani scholar Zeenia Satti, explained the Middle-Eastern political unrest as an effect of the Euro-American economic turbulence, since they both cross roads at certain juncture.

Ms. Satti explained with well researched and well anticipated precision for how the international political economy curates anxiety for the US dominant economic regime and the hitherto hegemonic status; in the back drop of the Soviet Union's geographical contiguity with the dominantly Islamic world of Central Asia, South Asia, South West Asia to South Eastern Europe and North Africa, since they possessed the most strategic maritime routes and are treasured with fossil fuels. She implied that this would have encouraged the Trans Asian economic regime.

Further on, the soaring economies of Brazil having a potential of tying itself into a south-south relationship with the other emergent economies in Asia and Africa, China and India to quote, posited threat to Euro-American system. The absence of communist subversive threat to oil rich Middle-Eastern states further reduced the dependency on the US for their security. Having the most strategic maritime trade routes mainly in the Muslim world and shrinking industrial base of the US together would have relegated the US to a periphery of the international status. In due course such politico-economic threat would have posited an existentialist threat to Israel as well.

"The US decision to respond to the twin tower attack by launching the long War on Terror and naming their target as Islamic extremism was motivated to pre-empt..... the emergent Trans- Asian boom". This rationale therefore "explains the region wide expansion of the WoT".

Ms. Satti deplored the mechanisms therefore used to destroy the ingredients of statehood i.e. security and economy; particularly in the Islamic World.

In this spiral, Pakistan has suffered more stress caused by its longest endured War on Terror (WoT), however it's street has not erupted neither the political system has derailed. The political cyclone could not engulf Pakistan yet, despite having a space to threaten hostile India's most viable energy supply lines from Middle East and Central Asia, Pakistan has handled the affairs well. "Pakistan's steadfastness in the face of Herculean troubles is a testimony to the structural strength of its institutions and the psychological strength of its polity". In her second part of the presentation, Ms. Satti identified mainly salient sources by which any subversive try could be effectively met:

- i. Talks with Taliban.
- ii. Avoidance of prolonged counter-insurgency.
- iii. The minds and hearts of the people must not be abandoned. A venting narrative is required to represent people's emotions against NATO's insistence.

“Subversion in the Islamic World: Is Pakistan Next?”

- iv. Control of subversion through escalating food prices.
- v. Misuse of media must be avoided.
- vi. Check on foreign nationals in Pakistan.
- vii. Careful government operations against criminals.
- viii. Experimenting innovative ways of governance.
- ix. Political leaders must remain physically intact with the masses unlike Altaf Hussain.
- x. Encouraging engagement of people like Tahir-ul-Qadri since he has a following however without letting him influence the vital organs of the government.

Zeena Satti's talk was followed by a thought provoking interactive session.

- *Prepared by*

Shamsa Nawaz
Research Fellow