



ASSOCIATION OF ASIA SCHOLARS

GLOBALISING ASIA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL 2, No. 2

15TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

From the Editors' Desk...

2001–2021: The Twenty Years' Crisis

In this issue

Commentaries

Examining Political Instability in Myanmar p.2

What's ahead for Rohingya in Post-Coup Myanmar? p.4

India's Response to the Myanmar Crisis p.6

Webinar Reports

"NPT Review Conference and Future of Nuclear Non-proliferation" by Dr Petr Topychkanov p.8

"Global Britain and the Indo Pacific" by Dr. James Rogers p.9

September in Asian history by Dr Chaitra C p. 10–11

News in Pictures p.12

Feedback p.13

The historic publication of E H Carr's *The Twenty Years' Crisis 1919–1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations* on the eve of World War II had examined the founding years of the IR academic discipline woven around the nation State system. Recalling that title now echoes nostalgic impulses as the twenty years of America's Afghan War has ended in making Non-State actors like Taliban as the new centre-point of IR. In the midst of centennial celebrations of IR, therefore, this defeat of world's most powerful national forces portends a redefining of the IR discipline.

The 9/11 signified a tragedy that has since redefined IR, its narratives and everyday processes. The date this year coincided with the establishment of Interim Government of Taliban marking a 'regime change' in reverse order. This has already transformed life for Afghan people with wider regional and global security implications. Meanwhile, the twenty years of America's longest and costliest war — that saw loss of lives of thousands of civilians, Afghan forces and American soldiers — stands consigned to the dustbin of history as world seeks ways to engage Taliban-led Islamic Emirate in the making.

In defending the quintessential Westphalian nation-State, the 9/11 attacks had triggered a 'global war on terror' led by the US and its allies that legitimized pre-emptive strikes and 'regime change' paradigm. The devastating use of civilian airliners on the twin-towers in the heart of New York had triggered paranoia for urgent answers to America's vulnerability. This has since landed most States into a crisis choosing

between national security and individual freedoms. As Sarah Baxter writes in the *Sunday Times*, "The idea that the institutes of the State are working against the people has taken root among a substantial slice of the American electorate." This saw the coming of Donald Trump and his America First policies.

In the face of America's expanding global military engagements coinciding with its relative economic decline, its pushbacks on globalisation and burden sharing had ignited speculations about US losing its war on terrorism. The same US that launched 'global war on terrorism' was seen negotiating with Taliban thus legitimising their creed. As Brahma Chellaney says, "the U.S.-led war has made the world less safe with the scourge of transnational terrorism spreading deeper".

Unfortunately, the lexicon of terror has enveloped the religion of Islam and unleashed an Islamophobia of an unprecedented kind. Taliban victory may further reinforce this thesis. This sentiment becomes even more palpable given Pakistan's closer links with the Taliban victory. This Af-Pak breeding ground of terrorism may now have the financial and material backing of Beijing. So as the efforts at countering terrorism remain myopic and disjointed if not far too weak, the inevitable deepening of schism perhaps calls for States making way for great cooption of civil society initiatives.

*Prof Swaran Singh
Dr. Reena Marwah*

Examining Political Instability in Myanmar

The February 1st military coup in Myanmar, led by General Min Aung Hlaing, Chief of Myanmar Defence Forces, has dealt a blistering blow to the fledgling experiment with democracy in a country that, for 53 of its 74 years since its independence in 1948, has been ruled



Neeraj Singh
Manhas

by its armed forces. The world awoke on 1 February 2021 to the news of détention of Aung San Suu Kyi, head of the National League for Democracy (NLD). Despite her huge win in November 2020, democratically elected NLD leaders and the Supreme Court had defined military's attempt to declare election results null and void and, threatened by increasing popularity of elected leaders, the military chose to once again re-write new governance norms by taking over the reins.

Myanmar watchers and citizens were stunned, and government workers, professors, bankers, attorneys, and even young children flocked to the streets to see military marching in cities. Initially, the resistance was feeble because of the fear of retaliation, but it grew stronger as all segments of society banded together and foreign assistance provided promises of hope. Resistance quickly spread from the capital to other major cities with Yangon taking the lead. It was not simple to stand up against the might of the military, but the Burmese people did and have continued to do this.

Several world leaders have however condemned it. The UN General Secretary, Antonio Guterres, called it a "significant setback to democratic reforms." The United States and the United Kingdom retaliated by sanctioning the military junta. The UN Security Council has issued milder statements condemning the incident. This came because China vetoed stronger UN Security Council declarations. The UN, US, and UK

out in support of democracy, as well as the majority of nations rejecting the military junta's undemocratic decision, did not sit well with the Chinese leadership. The Chinese leadership restricted itself to showing displeasure while quietly engaging the Myanmar military, issuing

merely a tepid diplomatic statement requesting that Gen Hlaing free Suu Kyi.

Acceptance of democracy in Myanmar — neighbour of world's largest democracy, India — was also seen as reflection of its breaking free from China's influence. So concerns about democracy taking roots in Myanmar could explain China's indulgence with Junta. Indeed, the coup appears to have been planned in advance of the next day's session of the democratically elected national legislature to preserve military officers in command of the nation.

Only in January 2020, Chinese Premier Xi Jinping visited Myanmar and signed 33 bilateral agreements. A coup against the same administration by military junta could have Beijing's acceptance. Foreign Minister Wang Yi had indeed visited Myanmar and met Gen Hlaing barely over a fortnight before the coup was staged.

Under the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor has been pumping oil to China's Yunnan even as China develops Myanmar's Kyaphuku port in the Bay of Bengal.

On the other hand, the return of military dictators—

hip has seen ASEAN collaborating closely with President Biden to put restraints on the Junta for an early return of democracy in Myanmar. Their objective is to put China on the defensive. Relations between the United States and China remain strained, and it is unclear if China would follow any of the United States' initiatives. Meanwhile, tensions continue to grow and Suu Kyi remains in detention and people continue to protest confronting the powerful Tatmadaw. Hundreds of protestors have been killed and this has heightened emotions and yet there has been little effect on the Junta. None of Myanmar's neighbours are strong enough to influence the outcome.

Recognising the seriousness of the situation and the likelihood of an escalation in bloodshed, General Hlaing has the choice of remaining closely linked to the Dragon and draw power from there. China is powerful enough to offer strategic balance and economic assistance to Myanmar, and military control can be sustained and even reestablished gradually. On the other hand, more bloodshed and assassinations can tip the scales against the military junta. The history may repeat itself with military loosening control under pressure albeit with a resentment.

Another option would be to embrace the voice of international democracies and the UN and return power to the NLD; allowing the party to form a democratic administration while the Tatmadaw fortifies the country for the sake of growth and the welfare of the people. This will relieve some of the pressure on China from the United States to further fine-tune their trade and technology wars and fine tune their equations in the Indo-Pacific region.

The region may be saved from another refugee and humanitarian crisis and the world will be relieved of increasing strategic tensions. The post-pandemic economies need urgent attention and resilience. However, the governing generals must

have the fortitude to embrace military authority as an instrument of the government rather than the government itself.

The third option is a hybrid of the first two. General Hlaing should address the nation and foster an atmosphere of trust, comfort, and optimism. He should free Suu Kyi and other leaders and assist the NLD in resuming the session of newly elected national legislature. While the elected members of the NLD will form the government, the military should support the government in creating good internal administration and organising itself to combat terrorists on the country's northern border. As was the ongoing experiment since 2011, Tatmadaw must continue to progressively relinquish power in favour of democracy. By doing this, Gen Hlaing will be able to counteract the danger of western sanctions and Chinese supremacy while putting the country on a path of economic redemption.

There may be many more alternatives, and that the future may most likely unfold in favour of the people of Myanmar. In either case, regional powers must understand its implications and remain watchful and continue to engage the Junta to ensure South Asia's peace and development.

What's ahead for Rohingya in Post-Coup Myanmar?

Religious wars are not caused by the fact that there is more than one religion, but by the spirit of intolerance; the spread of which can only be regarded as the total eclipse of human reason.

—Montesquieu



Moksha Pillai

Inflicting terror with impunity — the apogee of military state violence — has never just been a means to some end for Myanmar's armed forces, the Tatmadaw. Instead, it has rather been a systematic roadmap to propagate acts of fear-mongering and incrementally increase the intensity of physical and symbolic brutality committed against its own people, in this case Rohingya Muslims that have been condemned as stateless and vanished.

Labelled as one of the most persecuted communities in the whole world; the Rohingya have suffered decades of humiliation and institutionalised discrimination at the hands of Myanmar's Military Junta. Despite being one among the largest ethnic minorities in the country, they have languished in extreme poverty and excluded from citizenship considerations; forced to flee from their motherland and thwarted from exercising their fundamental rights since the 1950s. From looking away from the persistent clashes between the predominant Buddhist Majority and the Rohingya, supporting hate-speeches, airing misinformation campaigns and weaponising pre-existing inequalities, the Tatmadaw has continued to exacerbate the existing cleavages across the religious-pluralistic groups in Myanmar, despite the slow-moving democratisation of the state in 2011.

However, the orchestration of a military coup earlier this year, has not only pulled the plug on the 10-year tutelary civil-military regime but also left

the country staring at the prospect of collapsing into a 'failed state' category and likelihood of facing a massive humanitarian crisis. As the international clarion calls for the restoration of peace and widespread condemnation of the

unconstitutional turn of events in the region gain decibels, a silver lining seems to be in the offing.

It may be counterintuitive to say that the February 1st military coup in Myanmar looks like a rather divine intervention.

Much like the rains quenching the burnt, parched lands after a drought, the coup has managed to rally all citizens of the region; cutting across religious beliefs and socio-political status towards a common cause i.e. the restoration of democracy and the need for ending human rights abuses including those against the Rohingya Muslims.

The realisation of the perils of disenfranchisement coupled with a renewed sense of social justice and shared empathy now envelopes the citizens of Naypyidaw as they unite to fight their common enemy- the Tatmadaw. The Military Junta has for long echoed strong sentiments of nationalism and nativism while justifying the atrocities committed against the Rohingya as a welcome sacrifice. However, the growing anti-coup protests now demonstrate an attempt to blow-off the constitutional fig-leaf that protects the military from punitive justice for their past crimes.

This Black-Swan event presents Myanmar with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to re-imagine its future. The collective experience of military

Author holds B.A.(Hons) degree in International Relations from Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, Views are personal.

oppression inflicted upon both the majority and minority communities, may open up a path forward —calling for a permanent integration of the Rohingya Muslims into the socio-economic fabric of a dictatorship-free Myanmar. However, given past record of Tatmadaw, these debates on the future of the Rohingya and their quest to achieve legitimacy are now colored with optimistic undertones and their deliverance day may once again remain elusive.

Indeed, amidst the rising cases of detentions and extra-judicial killings committed by the Junta to subdue the anti-coup resistance protesters; the challenges that plague the Rohingya in pre-coup setup have only exponentially aggravated owing to the endemic uncertainty imposed by the crackdown. The demolition of settlements, kidnappings, rapes and disingenuous efforts at facilitating dignified and legal repatriation of Rohingya refugees has left them feeling marginalised, disempowered and vulnerable.

Given the adversarial nature of the highly ‘asymmetric and protracted conflict’ that the Rohingya community has been long beleaguered by, it is very likely that they would have to live out their lives in a waiting-game as long as the Junta continues to defend its interests through blanket denials of culpability.

Their large-scale forced migration into the ASEAN and other refugee-hosting countries, curtailing of press-freedoms and the withdrawal of logistical support to Non-governmental organisations, Civil society organisations for providing humanitarian aid has further salted their old wounds. As the Rohingya continue to fight

against the Junta with their Burmese-Buddhist brothers and other Ethnic Armed Organisations in fray, they also risk descending into an unending, vicious conflict spiral and sacrificing themselves to Myanmar’s burgeoning lost generation. Despite over six months into the coup, the potential of conflict transformation in the region remains untapped. The international stock-taking on Tatmadaw’s obligations under the Genocide Convention continues to move at a glacial pace. A break in the clouds however, presents the onset of harmonious ethno-social relations amongst religious communities, the Gen-Z protestor’s heightened use of social-media to fight fake-news and communicate the ideas of patriotism and the awakening of a nation-wide consciousness to seek an inclusive democracy by bolstering their voice of dissent. With various international and regional players beginning to sever ties with the Junta and its commercial enterprises, there seems to be a ray of hope glimmering through the chinks in Tatmadaw’s iron-clad reign of terror with democratic experiments moving again to deep freeze.

While the Rohingya’s dreams for cognizance of their identity may take longer to realise, their representation and participation in the parallel National Unity Government, consistent engagement with the local CSOs, international NGOs stressing transparency in interactions with International Organisations (like the United Nations, International Organisation for Migration, United Nations Humans Rights Commission) promise to help set the tone for abolishment of systemic discriminatory mechanisms that denied Rohingya their claims for citizenship.

These actions when complimented by a robust international response and a unified regional position can help transform this ‘multidimensional catastrophe’ that has plagued the Heart of South-Asia into a ‘chance for redemption’ and re-instate democracy that awards legality to the claims of the ethnic minorities in the country.

India's Response to the Myanmar Crisis

As Myanmar military has once again put an end to its dalliance with democracy, the tightrope walk that has characterised India's Myanmar approach calls for revisiting New Delhi's strategies. India's pragmatic engagement with the Tatmadaw has developed minimum trust with both the military and the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) by keeping its defense training, supply and security ties with the military separate from its political support for the democratic forces in Myanmar.



Srushti Tanaya Swain

First and foremost, it revives the issue of India's approach towards Myanmar refugees. As police officials and others fleeing persecution in Myanmar enter India through borders in Mizoram and Manipur, the Ministry of Home Affairs issues letters to the state governments of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram stating that those fleeing the coup should be identified and deported.

The crisis in Myanmar is also characterised by tensions between the Buddhist Rakhine and Rohingya, exacerbated by the state policies of exclusion. This again gets intertwined with India — the Rohingya have historically been referred to as 'Bengalis' or 'Indians' and have been designated an ethnic origin beyond Myanmar. Being the only country that can be located at the intersection of India's 'Neighbourhood First' and its 'Act East' policies, Myanmar provides an acid test for India's regional diplomacy. Myanmar's geopolitical importance to India explains New Delhi's soft approach on the issue of Rohingya or coup, keeping distance even when the issue was raised in the International Court of Justice.

India has tried to maintain cordial relations with the Tatmadaw, which understands the strategic

significance of India. This is evident in Operation Sunrise, 2019 aimed at hitting militant groups that impact both countries. Under the Operation, the Indian Army targeted members of the Arakan Army, an insurgent group in Myanmar. In May 2020, the Myanmar government handed over 22 ethnic Assam rebels to India. India's relative silence since February 1 could be reflective of India's desire to not upset the Tatmadaw and provoke it into inaction against the rebel groups from India's Northeast based in Myanmar. Additionally, China's overwhelming presence in Myanmar continues to shape India's association with Naypyitaw. China's warm relations with the Tatmadaw since the 1980s is also indicative of India's stand on the Rohingya crisis. In October 2018, the Supreme Court, headed by former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, had refused to stop the Assam government from deporting seven Rohingyas for entering India without documentation.

Firstly, the consent was not demonstrated before the Court. Second, considering the hostile conditions in Myanmar, it didn't seem plausible that a Rohingya would voluntarily consent to repatriation. As described by the UNHCR, India appears to have flouted the international principle of non-refoulement — a person cannot be forced to return to their home state if they continue to have a "well-founded fear of persecution" in that state.

Historically, the BJP has frequently raised the issue of deporting Bangladeshi 'illegal immigrants' in the Northeast. In its 2014 election manifesto, the party promised to confront the issue of illegal immigrants in the Northeast region. This seems at variance with India's approach to refugees. India welcomed refugees from Tibet in 1959.

However, in the case of the Rohingya the government shut its doors. Also, in the past no refugees have been described as a terrorist threat. In an affidavit to The Hon'ble Supreme Court in March 2021, the Centre called Rohingya "absolutely illegal migrants" who posed "serious threats to the national security". This statement came as the Court was hearing a plea seeking release and protection of over 150 Rohingya as part of a process to identify undocumented immigrants for deportation.

What legitimises this approach is the rising security concerns over the actions of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence in promoting the rise of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army as a new terrorist organization. These developments have made New Delhi cautious of the potential implications of the conflict in Myanmar.

India has always stressed on socio-economic development in Rakhine State as "the only long-term solution" as it would create enough economic incentive for the displaced people who will eventually return from the camps at Bangladesh. In this regard, Myanmar has appreciated India's provision of 250 pre-fabricated houses and relief materials for displaced persons in northern Rakhine in 2019.

India's Rohingya approach is driven by the consideration that "normalcy" can only be established with the return of the displaced persons to Rakhine state. "Operation Insaniyat", under which India provided relief assistance to Bangladesh in the face of large influx of refugees, fits the view that India is working to discourage Rohingya refugees from entering and settling in India.

While it is rational that each nation will act in its own self-interest to defend vital national interests, including security and geopolitical advantages, so far the Indian approach towards the Rohingya crisis has been viewed as contradicting its traditional position on refugees.

India's efforts to distance itself from its obligations accruing from customary international law is not only being considered as a violation of international obligations but is also being perceived as a disregard of fundamental human rights. As the Myanmar crisis unfolds, there is scope for India to play an active role in facilitating the deliberation of long-term solutions. These actions will be key in determining India's regional and global standing.

References

Chaudhury, A. (2018, October 18). India's Decision to Deport the Rohingya Is a Violation of International and Domestic Obligations. The Wire. <https://thewire.in/rights/indias-decision-to-deport-seven-rohingya-is-a-violation-of-international-and-domestic-obligations>

Leider, J. (2018). Rohingya: The history of a Muslim identity in Myanmar. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History.

Sanya Samtani. (2018, October 18). Deporting Rohingya Refugees: Indian Supreme Court Violates Principle of Non-refoulement. Oxford Human Rights Hub. <https://ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk/deporting-rohingya-refugees-indian-supreme-court-violates-principle-of-non-refoulement/>

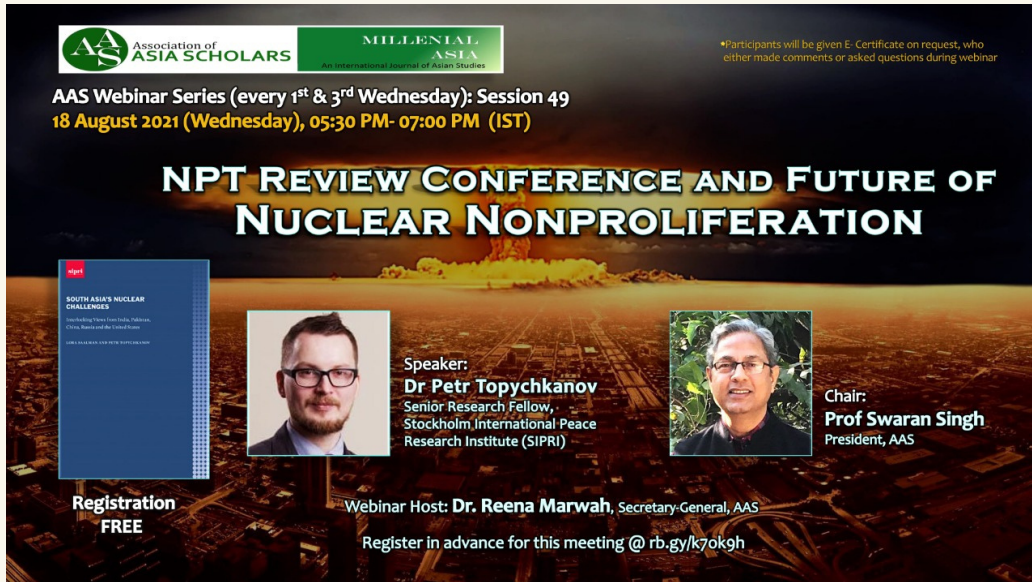
Samom, S. & Naqvi, S. (2018, October 4). 7 Rohingya refugees deported to Myanmar after Supreme Court refuses to intervene. Hindustan Times. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/7-rohingyas-deported-from-assam-after-supreme-court-refuses-to-intervene/story-rf4FwSDi5TAxCPN6GsCqN.html>

Sushma Swaraj in Dhaka: Only long-term solution to Rohingya crisis is rapid socio-economic, infra development. (2017, October 22) The Indian Express. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/sushma-swaraj-dhaka-visit-bangladesh-myanmar-rohingya-muslims-4901221/>

Yhome, K. (2018, July 11). Examining India's stance on the Rohingya crisis. Observer Research Foundation. <https://www.orfonline.org/research/examining-indias-stance-on-the-rohingya-crisis/>

Webinar Session 49: August 18, 2021 [Link to webinar here](#)

“NPT Review Conference and Future of Nuclear Non-proliferation” by Dr Petr Topychkanov



Association of ASIA SCHOLARS **MILLENNIAL ASIA**
An International Journal for Asian Studies

AAS Webinar Series (every 1st & 3rd Wednesday): Session 49
18 August 2021 (Wednesday), 05:30 PM- 07:00 PM (IST)

NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE AND FUTURE OF NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

Speaker:
Dr Petr Topychkanov
Senior Research Fellow,
Stockholm International Peace
Research Institute (SIPRI)

Chair:
Prof Swaran Singh
President, AAS

Webinar Host: Dr. Reena Marwah, Secretary-General, AAS

Registration **FREE**

Register in advance for this meeting @ rb.gy/k7ok9h

*Participants will be given E- Certificate on request, who either made comments or asked questions during webinar

The speaker, Dr Petr Topychkanov began by stressing on the fact that like several other aspects of geopolitics, the COVID-19 pandemic has not dismissed the issue of nuclear disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

Speaking in the context of the delay of the NPT Review Conference, the speaker stated that the first delay was pessimistic as it erupted due to a crisis in nuclear arms control between the United States of America and Russia. These two countries were unable in safeguarding one of the historic arms control treaties between them – the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. The pressure exerted by the Obama- and the Trump-administration on Russia and the failed diplomacy from both sides resulted in the expiration of the INF Treaty before the NPT Review Conference. The speaker further emphasized on the diplomatic failure of the Trump-administration on the inclusion of China in the nuclear agreement New START Treaty between the US and Russia and the swift decision-making of the Biden-administration to extend the treaty for the next five years. However, these five years in terms of nuclear diplomacy is not enough

to discuss about what comes next, how the process of disarmament should be taken forward keeping in mind the policies of the Article 6 of the NPT not just by the US and Russia, but also by France, United Kingdom and China.

He further spoke about the effects of the pandemic in the growing role of other multilateral efforts and events under the UN. Due to the shared sense of interconnectedness and vulnerabilities highlighted by the pandemic, there is global support for a wider disarmament movement, the result of which can be seen as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon in 2021.

He showed concern over the mixed and online meetings formats in nuclear diplomacy. The online meetings, despite having the advantage of cost-effectiveness, are still considered as unsafe due to the lack of cybersecurity and the sensitive nature of the discussion. The session was followed by question and answer.

By Pratush Pran Sharma

Webinar Session 50: September 01, 2021 [Link to webinar here](#)

“Global Britain and the Indo Pacific” by Dr. James Rogers



Association of ASIA SCHOLARS **MILLENNIAL ASIA**
An International Journal of Asian Studies

AAS Webinar Series (every 1st & 3rd Wednesday): Session 50
01 September 2021 (Wednesday), 05:30 PM- 07:00 PM (IST)

GLOBAL BRITAIN AND THE INDO-PACIFIC

AUDIT OF GEOPOLITICAL CAPABILITY
AN ASSESSMENT OF TWENTY MAJOR POWERS
(COMPILED BY JAMES ROGERS) 2019

Speaker:
Dr James Rogers
Director,
Council on Geostrategy
United Kingdom

Chair:
Prof Swaran Singh
President, AAS

Registration FREE

Webinar Host: **Dr. Reena Marwah**, Secretary-General, AAS
Register in advance for this meeting @ rb.gy/kfywto

*Participants will be given E- Certificate on request, who either made comments or asked questions during webinar

The session began with examining the term Global Britain, coined in a Policy Paper titled ‘Competitive Age, the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy’ that describes the UK government’s role and vision for the upcoming decade. It lays the foundations of big questions which were unanswered because of the established stability in the world. The speaker introduced the historical heyday of Britain and how it achieved its global prominence from the scientific revolution and industrialisation. He added that the crystallisation of power after Nazi Germany was brought together by France, Britain, the United States and Canada. This was termed the ‘Middle Ocean Concept’ to deter attacks on democratic countries.

Further, the discussion proceeded to the contemporary times and how in the post-Brexit world Britain is trying to rebuild itself. In the context of the interests in Indo Pacific, its ‘tilt’ signifies Britain’s ambitions to intensify its presence and deter potential competitors. The UK government has also committed to an increase in British defence spending since the end of the cold war. The overall increase is around GBP 24.1

billion. The outlook towards the Indo Pacific retraces fundamental tenants of British power - sovereignty, upholding cross-national sovereignty and developing prosperity. The goal further proceeds to maintain an open international order identifying China as a systematic competitor.

The UK’s interests in the Indo Pacific are threefold- economic: wherein it identifies extensive trade in the region and wants to build bilateral agreements and stronger relationships with Gulf countries, India, Southeast Asia, South Korea and Japan. Strategic: by contributing to state-building enterprises being given importance to make the states more resilient. Importantly, it believes in upholding freedom of navigation since Maritime and Naval power is the way through which Britain can reach these countries. Normative: promoting an open society and free trade in the context of post-Brexit policymaking. Britain is committed to a long-term involvement projecting itself as the largest ‘European partner’ in the Indo Pacific. The session was followed by question and answer.

by Shubhangi Jain

SEPTEMBER IN ASIAN HISTORY

by Dr Chaitra C

1 September

1449- Mongols capture the Emperor of China in Tumu crisis.

1948- North China Peoples Republic is formed by the Communists.

1961- First Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Conference is held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

1966- Amid Cultural Revolution in China, violence erupts between Red Guards and the workers.

1978- Bangladesh Nationalist Party is founded.

2 September

1856- Taiping rebellion occurs in China.

1945- Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam declares independence from France, forming Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

1960- Tibetan community observes Democracy day. The first election of Parliament of Central Tibetan Administration is held.

3 September

1954- The Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA) begins shelling the Republic of China thereby starting the First Taiwan Strait crisis.

2016- China ratifies Paris climate agreement.

2017- North Korea claims of successful detonation of hydrogen bomb meant for an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.

2018- Myanmar jails two Reuters journalists for 7 years in State Secrets Case.

4 September

1943- Japanese-sponsored Constitution is signed and ratified in a general assembly and two days later by KALIPABI, the only political organization allowed during the Japanese occupation in the Philippines.

5 September

1945- British troops land in Indo-China to disarm the Japanese.

1970- In the Vietnam war, Operation Jefferson Glenn begins.

6 September

2003- Around one lakh separatists gear up to change the nomenclature from Republic of China to Taiwan.

7 September

1901- The Boxer Rebellion ends with the Peace of Beijing wherein China pays indemnity to European powers.

1942- Japan defeated by Australia and US forces at the Battle of Milne Bay.

2018- China allows Nepal access to its ports, thereby ending Indian autonomy.

8 September

1954- SEATO established to spread communist spread in South East Asia.

1980- First Soviet forces land in Panshir valley, Afghanistan.

9 September

1959- Moscow condemns Beijing on its Tibet suppression and extends support to India.

1965- Autonomous Region of Tibet formally established.

10 September

1976- Indian Airlines Boeing 737 is hijacked to Lahore.

11 September

1965- Indian army captures the town of Burki near Lahore amid ongoing Indo-Pak war.

1998- Malaysia becomes first Asian country to host Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

2012- Japanese government buys three uninhabited islands of Senkaku, a territorial dispute with China.

12 September

1965- UN Secretary General U Thant arrives in New Delhi desiring to resolve Indo-Pakistan dispute.

1999- Indonesia agrees to allow UN forces in East Timor.

2017- UNSC unanimously adopts new sanctions on North Korea over nuclear test.

13 September

1964- Attempted military coup against Vietnam's General Nguyen Khanh government fails.

2000- In Xiamen, trials on multi-billion-dollar smuggling scam begins involving death penalty for senior officials.

2011- Taliban attacks Kabul, NATO's headquarter, US embassy and Afghan intelligence agency.

14 September

1949- Constituent Assembly of India adopts Hindi as the official language of the Union.

1966- Operation Attleboro launched between Vietnam and Cambodia.

2018- Joint liaison office opens between North and South Korea.

15 September

1958- The Chinese Communist Party announces that the People's commune system on test in five provinces will be extended to entire country.

16 September

1945- Japan surrenders Hong Kong to Admiral Cecil Harcourt.

1963- Malaysia is formed from Malaya, Singapore, British North Borneo and Sarawak.

1969- US President Richard Nixon announces the withdrawal of 35000 soldiers from Vietnam before December 15.

2002- Talks between Sri Lankan government and LTTE separatists begin in Thailand under the aegis of Norwegian mediation.

17 September

1957- Malaysia joins the UN.

1974- Bangladesh joins the UN.

1991- North and South Korea become members of UN.

2014- Xi Jinping visits India with a view to reset relations between Asia's rival superpowers.

18 September

1976- Mao Zedong's funeral held at Beijing.

1988- Military coup outbreaks in Burma. Thousands of pro-democracy protestors killed and Constitution stands suspended.

2001- Chinese Taiwan joins World Trade Organisation.

2002- Symbolic opening of borders between the two Koreas.

2005- First free election held in Afghanistan.

19 September

1960- Indus River Water Treaty signed between India and Pakistan.

1961- India annexes Daman and Diu from Portuguese India.

1966- Indonesia rejoins UN. It had earlier withdrawn in protest of Malaysia's admission to the UN.

2006- Military coup breaks in Bangkok. Constitution is revoked and martial law declared.

2018- Pyongyang declaration adopted by Moon and Kim.

20 September

1954- The first Chinese National Congress adopts the first Constitution of the PRC.

1977- Socialist Republic of Vietnam joins the UN.

2015- Nepal adopts its first democratic constitution following 65 years of turmoil.

21 September

1860- During Second Opium war, Anglo-French forces defeat Chinese troops.

1965- Singapore and the Maldives join the UN.

1971- Bhutan joins the UN.

1984- Brunei joins the UN.

1987- Dalai Lama announces his five points Peace Plan for Tibet.

22 September

1965- India- Pakistan war ends with US call for cease-fire.

23 September

1955- Pakistan signs Baghdad Pact, which later becomes Central Treaty Organization (CENTO).

1969- China conducts first underground nuclear test.

24 September

1993- Promulgation of the new constitution by Cambodia.

1996- China signs the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty at the UN.

25 September

1955- Cambodia reneges its membership to French Union Francaise.

1965- China asserts its claim on 90000 sq. km. of the Indian territory.

26 September

1989- Vietnam announces total withdrawal of its troops from Cambodia.

2014- Ashraf Ghani wins Afghanistan's disputed presidential election with 55 per cent votes.

27 September

1928- The Republic of China is recognized by the US.

1988- Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy is established.

1997- Thailand adopts new Constitution, the 15th since 1932.

28 September

1972- Communist China and Japan agree to establish diplomatic relations.

2016- The SAARC summit scheduled to be held in Islamabad is cancelled.

29 September

1949- China's initiation of the Panchsheel- Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence.

30 September

1947- Pakistan and Yemen join the UN.

1990- Soviet Union and South Korea establish diplomatic relations.

1 October

1947- India gains independence from British rule.

1999- China and Pakistan sign the 100-year lease for the use of the Karakoram Highway.

2 October

1999- China and Pakistan sign the 100-year lease for the use of the Karakoram Highway.

3 October

1999- China and Pakistan sign the 100-year lease for the use of the Karakoram Highway.

News in Pictures



Taliban takeover of Afghanistan – 15th August, 2021
Source: Associated Press News



Malaysia's Muhyiddin Yassin stepped down as Prime Minister – 16th August, 2021
Source: Reuters



Malabar 2021 first phase of cooperative maritime exercise begins: 26th August, 2021
Source: US Embassy



China-Taiwan tension escalates as a US warship sailed through Taiwan Strait – 27th August
Source: Reuters



Bangladeshi vaccine scientist wins Ramon Magsaysay Award – 31st August, 2021. Source: The Hindu



China opens first rail road transport link to Indian Ocean – 31st August, 2021
Source: The Hindu



Sri Lanka's economic emergency – 1st September, 2021
Source: BBC



Japan PM to step down – 3rd September, 2021
Source: BBC



Protesters hits the street as Thai PM survives no-confidence Vote – 4th September, 2021
Source: Reuters



North Korea holds up parade in the middle of the night: 9th September, 2021
Source: Insider

Feedbacks

“The conferences, webinars, discussions, as well as monthly newsletters organised by the AAS provide us with useful and fantastic platforms and channels to communicate cutting-edged and hot issues in South Asia and the Indian Ocean with many outstanding scholars and researchers. Here, we can listen to diversified views and obtain the most comprehensive academic information with the most inclusive mentality.”

Yang Yang
Master student
Oxford School of Global and Area Studies
University of Oxford

“The Association of Asia Scholars has been instrumental in working as a forum to discuss vital issues concerning International Relations. The webinars conducted by AAS connect esteemed scholars from across the world with young emerging scholars. The Q&A session followed by the webinar has been extremely helpful in having a deeper understanding of the given topic as well as related areas.”

Dr. Kush Kumar Gayasen
Assistant Professor,
Munger University

Millennial Asia – Volume 12, Issue 1, April 2021

This issue is comprised of theoretically well-grounded and evidence-driven research papers on comparative issues of Asian countries.

[Click here](#)



Editors: Prof. Swaran Singh, Dr. Reena Marwah

Graphics and Design: Ms. Ashmita Deb

Research and Content Team:

Dr. Silky Kaur, Dr. Gazala Fareedi, Dr. Kush Gayasen, Dr. Chaitra C, Pratyush Pran Sarma, Shubhangi Jain, Shivangi Singh



[Website](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Linkedin](#)



[Youtube](#)