

MESSAGE FROM PUBLISHER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



THE CALL FOR ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY

The ego of 'twenty-first century' Imperialism is hidden under layers of subterfuge code-named values. Whenever there is any challenge to the supremacy of the imperial power or whenever other nations or peoples begin to exhibit abilities to break out of the system, the latter attempts their subversion and brings them down to the level of performance that will serve its interests best. There was one such interlude in the 1980s when the call was made to "downsize" Japan and Japan was downsized. In the early nineteen nineties the Soviet Union was subverted to bring Russia, its oil and other resources as well as central Asia under control.

Developing countries, some of them rich in natural and human resources, are struggling to feel their way out of years of exploitation. Their economies are progressively being steered towards *Maquiladora*-style techniques, perfected in Latin America. According to this, targeted countries act as glorified labour contractors to produce and supply consumer goods and services at throwaway prices, while finance, markets, technologies, raw materials, energy and of course the media are controlled by the empire and its agents in countries under its patronage.

Control is enforced through superior weapons of mass destruction, and under a deceptive cover of war against terrorism, globalisation of the economies and, where necessary evangelisation of their wards. The so-called democratic management of the economy and polity, 'colour' revolutions and regime changes, withdrawal of support through one or the other parameters of development and security are control instruments frequently employed.

With the transfer of the manufacturing and employment base of the United States to the countries of East, South East and Asian and Some Latin American Countries, the very foundation on which this superstructure of imperial power rests is itself becoming unstable. The following developments have made the situation even more complex.

With a growing national debt which far surpasses that of all other countries and its increasing dependence on other nations for the supply of low priced consumer goods and services the USA has already lost much of its clout. The exposure of the hidden hand behind the instrument of war against terror, the false pretences behind the attacks on Iraq, Lebanon and other locations and the attempted revolutions in Central Asian countries have rendered the superpower status unsustainable.

The rise of Asia during the recent years has partly been a consequence or reaction to these developments.

The rise of China and India, the re-emergence of Japan from its relative decline of the last decade and the remarkable transformation of the Soviet Union into a vibrant Russian federation have altered the power equation in Asia and in the world at large. However the unipolar system's attempts to downsize them and gain control of their resources and markets are becoming a threat to Asian Security. The establishment of military bases, the promotion of manufactured or manipulated revolutions, regime change or outright aggression are all part of the plan to ensure the subservience or subversion of Asia from the Near East to the Far East and from Central Asia to the Indonesian archipelago.

Asian countries have started to see the precocious revival of imperial ambitions amongst the neocons and the lackeys of the unipolar system. The pro-war media, inspired by the American claims of victory in the cold war, the ruthless rigged free market, and the consumerist culture are playing their own roles. So are attempts to popularise such resurgent imperialism amongst the subservient elites and the new consumer classes of some major countries of the developing world.

The Empire is thus struggling to spread its wings by promoting "values" to cover up the barbaric acts of its past and present and by deifying the free market.

The countries of Asia are awakening to these realities. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation represents one attempt to protect the identity, sovereignty and resources of Asian nations from the Imperial ambitions of the Unipolar System. This and other grouping such as ASEAN and SAARC would also help integrate the cultural and economic policies of Asian countries on the basis of non- intervention in each others' internal affairs and mutual help in security and social matters. The growing contacts with other developing countries in Latin America and Africa may also help to defeat or alter the hegemonic designs of the victims of Amnesia.

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