

EDITORIAL

If it was the aim of the Hamas to awaken world conscience, it has succeeded. Apart from massive street demonstrations, in every parliament of the world we find legislators calling for an end of Israeli war crimes in Gaza. When President Joe Biden was asked why the United States entered another war in Gaza, while one in Ukraine was still raging, he replied that the United States was the most powerful country in human history.

President Joe Biden's self-assurance notwithstanding, it needs to be noted that no Government is more powerful than its People. To their ever-lasting credit, Americans, many of them Jews, legislators and veterans have called on their President to secure a cease fire, the US vetoed in the UNSC. Even in the House of Representatives open and clear denunciation of Israeli war crimes was heard, and, in an unprecedented move, the *New York Times* wrote on 14 November 2023, that 400 federal employees wrote an open letter to their President calling him to order an immediate cease fire and end of the Gaza blockade, which has taken more than 10,000 lives.

The diplomatic efforts of the United States to secure diplomatic relations between Israel and the Arab World have been nullified because of Israel's war against humanity in Gaza. On the one side Ukraine, in dire need of Iron Domes sees them going to Israel which does not need them. President Volodymyr Zelensky conceded that the Gaza war had taken away the focus from Ukraine. The United States painted itself into a corner during the 28 October 2023 UNGA vote, thus yielding strategic space to China and Russia. Isolation is a condition which even the world's greatest power maintains a diplomatic corps to prevent.

Meanwhile, your journal steeped under centuries of atrocities and tyranny, keeps functioning. The first article is on the "Terminology for Archaeology in Pakistan's Languages." Archaeology is a subject that needs awareness and naturally, every civilization has its own vocabulary by which it cherishes its heritage. Here, not only Urdu, but other languages native to Pakistan are covered, taking a step towards standardization of terms.

In “History of the Musafirid Dynasty Based on Numismatics” the contributors focus on an almost obscure Irani dynasty of the Isma‘ili sect, and their coins are studied to trace their relations with other potentates of the era. Thus, the value of numismatics as a source of history is underscored.

Now come two articles, both relating to the era of the Delhi Sultanate. The first is “Tribal Settlements in Punjab and their Relations with the Sultans of Delhi” which charts the cultural diversity that went up to lay the foundation of Muslim rule in India. The mosaic, needs to be studied closely and this paper serves that purpose.

“Attitudes towards Diseases during the Sultanate Period” is a study not only of social mores but also give us an insight to medical history. In the contemporary era even in metropolitan areas we find so called spiritual healers and practitioners of what they represent as Alternative Medicine. This window to the times before the British brought allopathy with them shall be found interesting

“Comparative Analysis of Sat Mamoi Faqirs and Mamadev: Situating their Messianic Role in Sindh and West India”, brings us to 14th century Mughul India where, because of the eclectic spirit, many diverse creeds sprang up and contributed, in their way to the richness of our civilization.

We can only hope, that the next year shall see less barbarity, lesser pandemics and more attention to the challenges being posed by climate change.

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