

EDITORIAL

The New Year Anno Domini 2024 began with a new war. The United States the mightiest state, along with the United Kingdom bombed Yemen a state weakened by a decade old war. The recklessness we now see, moving from one front to another, is of a degree rare in history. The Ukraine War, the Gaza War and now, the Yemen War.

By planting Israel, a state religiously, ethnically and culturally different from all surrounding states was thought expedient because of the ease it was achieved. Seventy-five years later, it is taking its toll on the world. The foresight of President Dwight D. Eisenhower; who despite very heightened tension with Egypt, opposed the Anglo-French and Israeli occupation of conquered territories after the 1956 War. With General Eisenhower's forbearance out of the way, the more the United States asserts its might, the more it isolates itself. Having already pushed China and Russia in a close embrace, the United States needs to listen to its now awakened citizens.

An indication was the suit filed against the President, secretaries of State and Defense for complicity in the Gaza genocide by the Centre for Constitutional rights on 26 January 2024. A question of jurisdiction was raised. Perhaps the sentencing of Panama's captured ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega by a Miami federal judge may serve as precedent.

Meanwhile, as a bolt from the blue, Iran, of all countries, on 16 January 2024 launched missile strikes inside Pakistan, killing along with perceived terrorists, two children. Pakistan retaliated on 18 January, within 48 hours. The United Nations and the European Union urged on both sides to show restraint and take recourse to diplomatic channels. China having brought about a rapprochement between Iran and its traditional rival Saudi Arabia, rushed to bring about de-escalation between Iran and its traditional ally Pakistan. It was the Russian Foreign Office which spelled out the broader implications of this inexplicable conflict when it said that "both countries risk playing into the hands of those who would like to see the region descend into chaos."

This issue offers rich fare. “A Critical Appraisal of the Route and Halting Points of the Muslim Army’s March toward Al-Qadisiyya” is not simple recounting. Ever since the Revisionist dispensation of Islamic History has come to dominate western academia, such rejoinders from the Muslim east have become necessary. Then, follow two papers on Hindu architecture. “Some Hindu Monuments of Different Ages, from Talagang”. Architecturally, this paper covers one ancient and few British era monuments at a remote site in Pakistan, fascinating in its findings. The second, on “Bhadra Kali Mandir” describes a temple built in the Colonial past, with the focus of interest on the fusion, of Islamic and Indian norms.

“Food for Imperial Thought” is a highly competent survey of a supposedly marginal, but actually main interest regarding how the British fed their army men having diverse caste and cultural backgrounds. The fifth paper “Tracking Human Rights in Urdu” consists of a comparison of news related to human rights a century apart. This in its nature is a paper on Historiography. Sadly, between this and the last issue we lost two very eminent historians, one Russian, one American. Their obituaries are included

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