

EDITORIAL

History is never unmade, it is always made. Thus the American withdrawal from Afghanistan on 11 September 2021, is potentially as consequential as the Soviet Union's withdrawal in 1989. The world power figuration is slowly shifting to the East. Is History predictable? We can find a clue in General Mirza Aslam Beg's *Compulsions of Power* Lahore, June 2021,

You have taken a decision and therefore there is no point in justifying it now. At least draw a red line and tell them that we cannot go beyond that in support of the USA. I feel pain in observing that most of the people here believe that the Taliban will be defeated. This is wrong. Taliban will win and USA and her allies will be defeated the way Russia was defeated." People laughed. p.273

To US Senator Chris van Hollen, but for whose questioning Pakistan would have been made the scapegoat for the U.S failure in Afghanistan we are indebted. The fact that Pakistan was not playing a double game is established by the 23 September 2009 conversation between General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani and the US Ambassador Ann Patterson: "Fear that the ISAF mission in Afghanistan will end without the establishment of a non-Taliban, Pakhtoon led government friendly to Pakistan, adds to the Pakistani establishment's determination not to cut its ties irrevocably to the Afghan Taliban. General Kayani has been utterly frank about Pakistan's position on this." {*Dawn* 29 May 2011} Ann Patterson's remedy was the resolution of the Kashmir dispute. This advice went unheeded resulting in a massive humanitarian crisis.

In this issue, we offer to the reader papers dealing mostly with ideas and ideologies. The first paper is on "The Development of Qadariyya and Jabariyya Schools of Thought and the issue of Heresy and Heretics in the Umayyad Period (661-750)" Why the debate between Free-will and Predestination in Islamic Belief acquired a political connotation is dealt with here. This paper goes contrary to the prevalent Revisionist canon in Western academia, but is well documented. The next paper "The Golden Mean between Secular and Religious Fundamentalism. Revisiting al-Farabi's al-Madinat-al Fadila and ideologies of Abu Bakr al-Razi and al-

Ghazali” is also of ideological import, also due to, as in the previous paper, exposure to Greek and Neo-Platonic Thought.

The third paper traces the evolution of Grand Mughul to low Mughul art and architecture. ”Decline of Mughul Architecture”. This is based on a semi-detached area of Lahore, Begumpura, and how valuable monuments of a bye-gone era has been subject to both neglect and tasteless renovation. It also offers an architectural clue to female piety. Thus we have strayed far from the religious and ideological factors in the fourth paper. “The Role of Mullas and Babas in the Formation of the Swat State with Special Reference to Sandakai Baba.”

This shows that the region is ideological prone and no success can be achieved by side stepping this factor. This paper provides us a remote cause of the evolution of the Taliban. The imperatives in the conflict are set out with clarity and have an expository value. The last paper “Ata’ullah Shah Bukhari Twentieth Century Firebrand and Orator of Freedom in South Asia” also deals with a species of Mullas and Babas and gives a realistic estimate of the power and influence wielded by this renowned Master of Rhetoric.

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