

EDITORIAL

While Pakistan is commemorating its Diamond Jubilee, 75 years of Independence, It is facing an economic crisis and a deluge. It is also facing in Kashmir an unfinished agenda of Partition. When Junagadh acceded to Pakistan, India described it a step “in utter violation of the principles on which Partition was agreed upon and affected.” The principle was a religious divide.

At this juncture we enjoy the goodwill of all World powers: the United States, China and Russia. The US State Department on 20 December 2022 “also offered to assist India and Pakistan in resolving their differences reminding them that they are key global partners and that America would like to continue our valuable partnerships with both.” But when asked specifically about the Kashmir dispute the spokesman commented: “Our policy is that this is an issue that needs to be addressed by India and Pakistan. We are prepared to support if the parties want that, but this is a question for India and Pakistan to adjudicate.”

Although this stance is contrary to the 8 August 2019 statement of Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the Kashmir dispute awaits solution in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions, the advice is basically sound. After all Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru went back on his repeated promises of plebiscite in Kashmir on 24 February 1955 on the basis that Pakistan had become a military ally of the United States. If only Russia and Ukraine were left alone to adjudicate their differences, Europe would not be experiencing a winter of discontent. The Ukraine War has ended Globalization. Demonstrators in Europe are calling for a pull-out from both NATO and EU. If only Russia had received assurance that NATO would not extend to Ukraine, such calls would not have been made.

Heels upon the Covid-19 pandemic Pakistan was devastated by a massive flood caused by climate change. A flood was the highlight of Pre-history, a flood could be the highlight of Post-history. A blizzard in America and lack of heating in Europe show that Climate Change is a challenge to be faced collectively.

Meanwhile, our Journal carries on and we have begun to attract foreign readers and foreign contributors. The first paper Sandalwood and Buddhism is a study in material culture. The paper besides expounding upon the profundity and influence of Buddhism and its appeal beyond its country of origin. The next “Locating the Nights of Shaqq-u-l Qamar and Shab-al Qadr” is not a mere chronological exercise. It is one of rare challenges to the Revisionist School of Islamic history as being taught in Western Academia.

Patricia Crone in *Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam*, New Jersey, Princeton University, 1987 has claimed that the Battle of Badr could not have taken place on the 17th of Ramadan. This paper addresses such claims. “Mati Ek Anek Bhati” is a very critically sound survey of public eclecticism in late Medieval India by focusing on the enigmatic and mystical figure of Kabir. The contributor also focuses on the appeal Kabir had for Rabindra Nath Tagore. “Jinnah An Image” is a contribution of a celebrated biographer of Mohammad Ali Jinnah whose works on the history and literature of South Asia have gained renown. “Aspects of Resistance Poetry in the term of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto” completes a picture as protest poetry in Pakistan began with adulation of this leader, and although he regained popularity immediately on removal, such political comments need to be recalled for a balanced view of History.

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