

'WEAPONS'

Essential for peace and prosperity?

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Weapons have had a long history of ambiguities the so-called civilized countries first used them to make wars uglier, to fight terror, and then to make peace. However, the truth is known to all. Merriam-Webster defines weapons as “something used to injure, defeat, or destroy”, yet they are essential tools for maintaining “peace” and “prosperity” in speeches of the greatest leaders of the greatest nation, but we trust these leaders, don't we?

Like weapons, Democracy: a system of the people, by the people, for the people to elect governments, kept exploding all around the world in the last century. It has been complemented by the sincere dedication of political leaders to win elections to “serve the country”. However, these politically motivated dedications have served to manufacture political weapons for domestic as well as international usage.

POLITICS OF WEAPONS

Weapon politics play a significant role in global affairs, as countries around the world engage in debates and negotiations about arms control, disarmament, and proliferation. Many different factors influence weapon politics, including economic, strategic, and ideological considerations.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Fanatics would love to believe that superpowers are 'super' because of their charisma or god-gifts that they may possess. But why these gifts are restricted merely to a fraction of world countries, did god make partiality, or did countries decide their fates on their own? Let's cut the clutter, and be straight, today's world order is more or less being dominated by countries possessing nuclear weapons and no god-gifted advantages. However, Pakistan and North Korea stand for the exception.

Nuclear weapons: devices designed to release energy explosively through fission, fusion, or both cause thermal and ionizing radiations instantly followed by radioactive fallout and environmental effects. Despite having the potential of causing destruction beyond our imagination, countries are not convinced to quit the nuclear weapon race yet, as it's apparent that today's world order requires to be decorated with medals for cumulative numbers of nuclear weapons.

Today's tally of nuclear weapons stands at 13,080(approx). Possession and potential use of nuclear weapons have significant implications for international security, and the development of nuclear weapons by additional countries is a source of concern for many policy-makers.

The global community has attempted to address this issue through the Non-Proliferation Treaty (1970), which aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament among the existing nuclear-armed states. Surprisingly, our own country has not signed this treaty as for the Indian Government, this treaty divides the world into nuclear 'haves' and 'have-nots' and favors the victorious nations of WWII.

ARMS TRADE

Another important issue in weapon politics is the arms trade. Many countries engage in the buying and selling of weapons, and this trade can have significant political and economic implications. Some countries have attempted to restrict arms trade through international agreements, such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which aims to regulate international trade in conventional weapons. The sole protector of peace - America has been working too hard for its purpose. It's decision to establish "peace" and "prosperity" has ranked it first in the Arms trade. Today, Arms Trade is a \$100 billion industry with the United States of America filling its pockets with 34% of all global sales. The legends of American dedication are to be sung from Saudi Arabia, with imported arms from America. Saudi to establish "peace" along with 8 other states have carried out an air campaign in Yemen against Houthi Rebels since March 2015 to support President Abdrabbuh Mansor Hadi. These attempts to "fight terrorism" have contributed to the death tally going beyond 5200. These lives were traded for what? Nothing, no peace has been established in any way. Chinese growing economy is being mirrored by its increasing arms trade. Today, it stands 5th in the global ranking for arms exports. Challenges are being thrown at the West due to the technological sophistication of its weapon system.

However, it's no good news for Southeast Asia, precisely for India, as Pakistan is among the top customers of "Made in China" arms. Is this arms trade in the name of 'corporation among nations' suitable for democracy, human rights, or the environment?

Well, every sane individual will know the answer: No. What it suits is terrorism, human rights violations, exploitation of liberty and security of people, destruction, and anti-democratic political regimes. If it is so, why the trade of arms has not been given closer attention by anybody, even after what the world has witnessed in Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan? Unfortunately, first and second-world countries have always used the third world as their playground for their interests often by providing deadly toys to them to run their politics. And the opium of arms to the world gets fuel for their liberal economies. It is found that democracies export more arms than autocracies, due to their more liberal economies.

WEAPONS OF POLITICS

Politics is a game of power to influence and control, and our politicians know it very well. They've been exploiting all the social cleavages for the longest time that democracy has seen, for the desperation of being elected to "serve" people.

To a limited extent, it could be defined as a feature of majoritarian democracies. However, in today's time all over the world, this exploitation on the fault lines of caste, class, religion, nationality, gender, etc has contributed in favor of its feature getting converted as its 'loophole'. The rise of populist leaders, right-wing extremism, and anti-immigrant sentiments have turned democracy into an untagged Ethnocracy: a political structure in which the state apparatus is controlled by a dominant ethnic group to further interests, power, and resources. Today, principles of democracy: free and fair elections, freedom of the press, and rule of law are being threatened by the toolkit of politics.

The last decade has seen proper democracies- for example, Turkey- sliding back to authoritarian rule, Myanmar turning aggressive against its ethnic minority, Americans blaming political institutions for not conducting free and fair elections, censorship being heavily imposed on media outlets to create homogeneity of thoughts favoring autocratic governments, US withdrawal from erstwhile committed territories to establish democracy.

THE RATIONALE

and why democracy is not on its brink? When more countries are autocratic and repressive treatise and alliances crumble, nations and entire regions become unstable, and violent extremists have greater room to operate. Today's world order is effectively hostile to autocratic regimes to flourish, for instance, Russia and China.

They have not missed any opportunity to strike democratic values for their internal repression and to malign influence on other countries. This hostility has deterred the process of global cooperation to tackle global as well as domestic issues. United Nations, which propagates democracy is on its own not democratic and always adheres to the strategic and political motives of its permanent members: China; Russia; France; The United Kingdom, and The United States of America.

It has shown its hypocrisy when it came to protecting oil-rich Kuwaitis and leaving Rwandans to burn in the fire of the Rwandan Civil War. Maintenance of peace and security, the well-being of the people, and international cooperation are the objectives of the United Nations, however, with rivalries among its veto powers, it is evident that it has failed by a great margin, as vetos kept halting possible actions of UNSC.

We can conclude that neither conventional weapons nor political weapons are effective to deal with contemporary problems but are deadly only. States for their own political and economic motive, have explored a way to exploit them in the name of "protection" and "peace". They are just sugar-coated venomous pills lacking sincere efforts toward good global governance.

