

Fellow's Presentation- MAKAIAS

Topic: ***REFLECTIONS AND CONSTRUCTS: THE INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN (2001) AND PROSPECTIVE SCENARIOS FOR INTERNATIONAL WITHDRAWAL (2014)***

Presenter: **Dr. Arpita Basu Roy, Fellow, MAKAIAS**

External Expert: **Dr. Anindya Jyoti Majumdar, Reader, International Relations, J. U.**

Date: **25.09.2012**

Time: **3 pm**

Venue: **Azad Bhavan, Salt Lake**

Rapporteur: **Arpita Basu, Researcher, MAKAIAS**

Arpita Basu Roy's presentation was an evaluation and analysis of the international approach to peace-building in Afghanistan. Assuming that fluidity and flux were constant in Afghanistan's political and social setting she established that the period of intervention was a momentous deviation from the status quo from which Afghanistan suffered previously, and that continuities of the past and changes in the contemporary were likely to influence Afghanistan in the future. She had highlighted the accomplishments and limitations of the intervening period (2001-2014). She made a serious attempt to construct scenarios which are likely to develop in post-2014. In her presentation, Dr. Basu Roy had analysed the issues of international intervention. She rightfully raised a question about whether it was a legal right of humanitarian intervention in the post 9/11 world. In this regard she commented on the international approach in Afghanistan. Consequently, she had focused on the reconstruction of security, achievements of the partnership between the international community and the Afghan government and social and economic development. In her presentation Arpita dealt with the insurgency problem and focused on the limits of state-building, absence of co-ordination, violence and insecurity, Afghan Civilian Deaths, conflicting national agenda of international actors in Afghanistan and aid-dependence and problems of accountability in case of a Rentier State. Finally, she had observed that international intervention in Afghanistan had been marked by its limitations and inadequacies whereas military operations had not been able to turn the tide of war

against the Taliban. Not only that, stabilization as well as the nation building agenda in Afghanistan continued to be the casualty and the situation in Afghanistan had reached a stalemate.

In the second part of her presentation Dr. Basu Roy had depicted the Post withdrawal scenarios as this paper was premised on the assumption that barring any major untoward incident which could subvert the timetable, total US withdrawal of US-led forces would be completed by the end of 2014 as planned. By way of conclusion, the paper argued that a total withdrawal would be catastrophic and only concrete steps rather than vague references to the need for a long-term commitment by way of sustained financial assistance and material support would work for a sustainable Afghanistan.

Discussion Session

The external expert **Dr. Anindya Jyoti Majumdar**, Reader at the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, congratulated the presenter on her elaborate, comprehensive and well-researched presentation. He questioned whether the issue of intervention could be moulded into peace-keeping or peace-building activity in Afghanistan. He commented that the scenarios should not be categorized as positive or negative as this is a value judgment. Regarding the last slide of the presentation, which was actually wishful thinking about the ideal situation of Afghanistan, he commented that it was not a logical progression from the previous slides. In this regard, he advised that the projection of the ideal state should be substantiated by facts.

Prof. Jayanta Kumar Roy, Maulana Azad Fellow, MAKAIAS congratulated the presenter on her excellent, thoroughly researched presentation which has ample primary and secondary evidences along with critical analysis. He also gave certain extremely valuable supplementary comments, observations and insights. He also thanked the external expert for his critical observation. He particularly emphasized that the situation in Pakistan -Afghanistan is a cause of worry. Pakistan may follow a no enemy policy but Pakistan is its own enemy. He commented on the future role of US, China and India in context of post withdrawal scenario.

Comments and observations from the floor highlighted at the following issues:

- A question was raised on the Afghan Refugee problem.
- Discussion was carried out on the Role of Non-government Actors in the post 2014.
- It was observed that an important role would be played by the Civil Societies.
- Questions on the role of Agha Khan Trust in the development sector were raised.
- It was observed that insurgency and related violence had taken place mainly in the rural areas located nearby the urban cities.
- Questions were raised on the role of Regional Groupings.
- There was a discussion on the use of the coinage 'Islamic Emirates'.
- Discussion was carried out on the position of women in the society in context of high literacy rate among females.