

Drone is here!



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A few decades past, it was the age of Cold War and the world was in a constant fear of nuclear war between the US and the then USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic), present Russia. That age was dominated by the development of nuclear bomb, ICBM (Inter Continental Ballistic Missile), SLBM (Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile) and so forth. The Cold War came to an end in the nineties of the last century with the demise of USSR. Now we are living in a multi-polar world, arguably uni-polar with the US in the centre. Probably with the demise of USSR, we not only left behind the age of nuclear bomb or ICBM, SLBM, but also we have entered in a new age of armament- the age of drone. According to recent research by International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) there are at least eleven countries that have their own drones while more countries are trying to develop their own version of it. More concern for us that our neighbour India has, as it is known, thirty drones. The unscrupulous and indiscriminate use of drone makes it enough to be worried about our country's national security and of

course, security of individuals.

Let us look at the short history of drone. Drone is the innovation of the US. The CIA and Pentagon first wanted to have it in the early 1980s, for reconnaissance. In the nineties of the last century, the US publicly unveiled the drone. When President George W Bush declared a "War on Terror" 11 years ago, the Pentagon had fewer than 50 drones. Now, it has around 7500 drones. But according to the IISS data it has at least 678 drones in service. Following 2001, the RQ-1 Predator became the primary unmanned aircraft used for offensive operations by the USAF and the CIA in Afghanistan and the Pakistani tribal areas. The US rarely discusses the top-secret drone programme. This is, absolutely, humiliating for any country to be under the attacks of drone which Pakistan and Somalia have been experiencing for years. In the name of war against terrorism, in other words pulling up al-Qaida, the US killed thousands of Pakistani civilians.

The US government justifies its drone strikes by the argument that it is at war with al-Qaeda and its affiliates. One could imagine that India in the not too distant future might launch such

attacks against suspected terrorists in Kashmir or in neighboring countries. China might strike Uighur separatists in western China, or Iran might attack Baluchi nationalists along its border with Pakistan. China has already expressed its interest to use drone to vigil the activities of Japan in South China Sea. The more time is progressing the more the desire to exercise on own drone by new states is increasing. This is why the concern of drone related insecurities is increasing.

Recent report says that drone makers are trying to swell their commercial destinations. They are diversifying the types of drone productions to attract wide range of consumers. Those days are not far away when one may book a drone on amazone.com. So, non-state actors like terrorist groups, drug cartels may have it as there is lack of any regulation regarding the sell and production of drone, so far. Drone needs to be taken as a similar concern as was taken for chemical and biological weapons. Because this is no less heinous, this is called 'predator.'

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A world without the West

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A little over a week ago, Pakistani youth activist Malala Yousufzai was shot in the head by the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The country, already bearing the burden of daily barbarities, stood stunned.

And then, the world found out the Western world with its generalities and reductions, a world intent on insisting that all Pakistani women are hapless and miserable and all Pakistani men are brutes. There were paens to Malala in the New York Times and in the Washington Post.

In Pakistan, this made some squirm, including those genuinely affected by Malala's plight. What is Western, after all, is unequivocally bad. Some made excuses, saying that they didn't agree with the mass outpouring of emotion; others made up conspiracies or pointed fingers.

Pakistanis, especially those of the urban educated middle class, are the most recent conscripts of the anti-Western rampage that was until recent years only a staple of Islamist politics on the Pakistani far right.

Many would argue they have good reason for joining the ranks. The decade after 9/11 has seen a slow, steady throttle leaving Pakistan's technical exports, its doctors, computer engineers, software programmers, without a route to the jobs abroad that sustained their educational aspirations.

The United States, for example, has denied visas to Pakistani doctors often even those with the highest scores possible on the US medical licence exams. The fate of those bound for Canada, the UK or Australia has not been markedly better.

As those degree-toting individuals, rejected by foreign consulates, will gladly tell you, the skilled Pakistani worker, the computer scientist from Karachi, the doctor from Lahore or the engineer from Quetta is not in demand in the world.

Labels have been indiscriminately, even cruelly, applied to those who never had even the barest sprinkling of terrorist sympathy and spent their lives condemning extremism but who have now been left suddenly with the burden of those whose acts condemn them to global isolation.

Understandably then, if the West rejected Pakistan without logic, so too must they reject the West with an equal irrationality.

The rejected workers are not the backbone of anti-Western sentiment in Pakistan but they add a crucial element to the argument of those with no hope of participation in a globalised world.

With their joining together, the illogicality of isolationism has burgeoned from something on the margins to a national fungus, its tentacles cast into a variety of issues, treating each with an alarming superficiality.

One of these has been the recent debate in parliament and the Supreme Court on the issue of dual nationality and political office. The avowed intent of restrictions on dual nationality is to ensure that only the most loyal, interpreted as those holding only a Pakistani citizenship, can have the opportunity to serve the country.

However, in the tradition of what is illogic, the mechanisms have been shoddy. At the core of the relevant constitutional provision's failure is its blindness to the fact that the wealthiest Pakistanis, each holding more than US\$2 million in foreign bank accounts, can easily purchase in a short time citizenship to a variety of Western nations through investor programmes.

In this way, the dual nationality provision would enable action only for the culprits easiest to catch.

Instead of including in this ambit those hiding their money abroad while merrily being patriotic Pakistanis with a single passport (for the moment) it would penalise those who may have run off with medical degrees, made a few pennies abroad and then returned to Pakistan under the misguided impression that their skills would be welcomed at home.

Because the logic of anti-Western sentiment targets those easiest to catch or those already hated, Pakistani women have borne an inordinate share of accusing fingers.

Whether they are gang-rape survivors like Mukhtaran Mai or Oscar winners such as Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy or now activists like Malala Yousufzai their patriotism, achievements and courage are all open to question once they are unfortunate enough to be the subject of global attention.

Those Pakistanis infected by the feverish irrationality of the most superficial anti-Westernism will judge them then not for their bravery, honesty or capacity for aspiring to a vision. Their words will be weighed not for their truth but always against some invisible standard of loyalty, one that crucifies every success and stubbornly demands the correction of centuries of each and every western wrong.

Sitting in the path of convoys for wars they did not start, dealing with debts taken by politicians they do not represent, plagued by poverty and terrorism and unemployment, an energy crisis and a revenue crisis, Pakistanis can certainly claim the position of the world's most disgruntled nation.

Anti-Westernism is a useful panacea in this regard, allowing for vast stores of helpless hatred to be directed somewhere outward at those who have options or escapes.

Arguing for some doses of logic to break this fever of hating the West is much like trying to rehabilitate the most unwilling of addicts. Nevertheless, the distinction may be instructive for those who can take out a moment to consider its implications.

While redemptive for the moment, the all-consuming wish for a West-less world also represents a suspension of ethics and morality. In a Pakistan where acts of bravery and service are judged not on the basis of their own value, it is not religion or ideology that determines whether something is good or bad. What determines the latter is the single, crucial test of whether or not it is tainted by the corrosive, impure influence of the West.

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Necessity of industrial cooperation among D-8 countries

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THE demographic transition from rural to urban is continuing in all countries in the world. The number of urban residents is growing by nearly 60 million every year. By 2030, six out of ten people will live in city and by 2050 this proportion will increase to seven out of ten people. Developing countries, in particular the D-8 countries, would not be of any exception. Rather it is estimated that the urban population of developing countries will be more than double by the middle of the twenty first century. This demographic transition is, however, deeply associated with shifts from an agriculture based economy to mass industry, technology and services.

Considering the above facts and reality, it is clear to us that, to feed our people, change their life style and economy, bring them out of the poverty and give them hope of prosperity, we have no options left rather to move towards the industrial development and then industrialization.

For making industrial development or industrialization one of the key points is enhancement of regional cooperation among developing countries. It can provide a wider market for goods and trade opportunity among the cooperating countries.

Since its inception in 1997 the D-8 group of countries namely Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey, held seven summit meetings in different member countries. In these summit meetings the member countries set out some common goals and objectives, known as summit declaration, in order to improve the economies of these countries. Moreover, several ministerial meetings on industry reaffirming D-8 commitment and reiterating the directives of Tehran declarations related to industrial cooperation were also held at different times. All these efforts, as we feel, have laid the foundation of bringing industrial cooperation.

The possible industrial areas where we can cooperate right now are (i) Jute industry, (ii) Automotive industries, (iii) Energy and Environmental Conservation, (iv) Food industry, (v) Electronics and ICT, (vi) Oil and Gas, (vii) Cement industry, (viii) Standardization and accreditation, (ix) Steel industry, (x) rubber industry and (xi) Textile and Garments. The potential high-tech technologies where all D-8 countries together can cooperate are (i) Nanotechnology, (ii) Spintronics, (iii) Macro-electronics (iv) Genetics and Biotechnology, (v) Photonics and (vi) Renewable energy.

Countries in the D-8 group are located in different geographical locations with abundances of different natural resources and agricul-

tural products. Exporting and importing items thus vary from country to country and, this variation favourably facilitates to create a big common market for goods and food products in the D-8 member states. For example, jute is produced only in Bangladesh in the D-8 countries. Entrepreneurs and investors of D-8 member states can invest in this sector to produce finer jute goods including carpets and apparels targeting intra-country and international consumers. Moreover, the genome sequence of the jute has now been discovered. This has opened the door of opportunity to modify the jute fiber genetically to make them stronger and more flexible to twisting; thus turn them more useful in preparing jute polymers applicable to produce different parts of automotive.



Another important aspect of industrial cooperation is to identify countries which have potential resource and consumers for certain goods or products. This would help determine the type of cooperation needed, bilateral or multilateral, but all must be under the same umbrella of D-8. For rubber industries, for example, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Egypt can form a task force for industrial cooperation. In this case a trilateral mutually beneficial initiative for stronger trade and investment can be formulated for producing and marketing rubber products. In the case of automotive industry three D-8 member states Malaysia, Turkey and Iran are producing vehicles. But automotive has potentially good markets in other member states including Bangladesh. As a part of industrial cooperation the three vehicle producing countries can cooperatively set automotive industries in other member state like Bangladesh and can harvest mutual benefit. Similar framework of cooperation in other industrial areas such as steel, manufacturing, foods, electronics and ICT etc. can be established among the D-8 member states.

The peaceful use of nuclear energy in various industrial process and medical practices are already established. The D-8 member states

should establish a common platform for easier access to nuclear power plants. It is anticipated that the amount of costs could be reduced by 20% to 30% through cooperation among D-8 members.

Now we turn to the possible cooperation in the case of high-tech industry. The possible areas are nanotechnology, spintronics, microelectronics, photonics, renewable energy etc. The projected market size of nanotechnology is 1.6 Trillion by 2013. The worth of the market of spintronics is 100 billion dollars by 2014.

The renewable energy includes energy comes from the natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides and geothermal heat that are renewable (normally replenished). About 16% of global final energy comes from renewable right now. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the secretary general of the UN, said "renewable energy has the ability to lift the poorest nations to new levels of prosperity". According to International Energy Agency solar power generator may produce most of the world's electricity within 50 years, dramatically reducing the emissions of green house gas that is damaging the environment relentlessly. Renewable energy can be particularly suitable for developing countries like the D-8 member states because millions of people in these countries do not have access to grid electricity.

Establishing high technologies requires a huge amount of initial investment to meet the expenditure of scientific research and develop useful material and devices. Many developing countries in the D-8 group cannot afford financially to go for these technologies. The industrial cooperation in the area of R&D can thus open the door for high-tech technology in the D-8 member states. This will certainly change the economy and will make the D-8 member states suitable for competing with developed countries in the global market.

Industrial cooperation among D-8 member states is vitally important for the mutually beneficial industrial development, industrialization and development of economy. For easy access to finance and financial stability cooperative banks by the D-8 governments or by the initiatives of private sectors should be established. An effective quality control system common to all member states must be in place before intra-country and international trading. A strong R & D and training programme under the umbrella of industrial cooperation is required for improving the quality of existing industrial products and also for designing and developing high-tech materials and devices for industrial development in future.

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