ONLINE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "GROWING ULTRA-NATIONALISM IN CONTEMPORARY WORLD"

BY ISLAMABAD INSTITUTE OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION (IICR)

Nov, 19 2020



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WORDS

Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution aims to draw strategically comprehensive analysis on the contemporary conflicts. Moreover we not only aims to draw analysis but also to present foreseeable way-forward to the peaceful end of the conflicts.

I personally believe that it is that time when our country need think-tanks to play actively the role they are destined to. It is time that nation works collectively to overcome national and international hurdles. Yet there is a marathon to run in this regard

Sincerely,

Ms. Sabah Aslam

Founder/Executive Director IICR

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ABOUT IICR



Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) is an autonomous, independent research based think tank which believes in ethics of research. Regular research is conducted with the aim of a deep and insight based analysis in order to resolve various issues associated with peace and conflict at the domestic, regional and international level. IICR has a vibrant team of experts, researchers and scholars who have immersed themselves to make the purpose a success.

Mission

Apart IICR believes in conducting in-depth research keeping research ethics into consideration. Our mission is to conduct an independent and unbiased research to propose sound solutions and policy recommendations to deal with humanitarian and security challenges of Pakistan and the region. In addition, we are closely monitoring China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), its progress and its implications for not only Pakistan but for the whole region.

Goals

- a) To conduct in-depth research on issues concerning Pakistan.
- b) To identify key areas of cooperation especially in the field of security.
- c) To document, disseminate and strengthen peace and conflict resolution efforts through analytical discourse.
- d) To identify, articulate and evaluate conflict issues through research and other academic pillars i.e. round-tables, workshops, seminars, and conferences.
- e) To promote post-conflict rehabilitation while initiating and contributing to local, national, and regional peace and conflict transformation initiatives.
- f) To remain committed to promote core social values, as well as public awareness and practice of constructive conflict resolution.
- g) To enhance socio-economic and security environment through informed dialogue, and debate on key issues.
- h) To critically analyse Pakistan's political, socio-economic and foreign policy challenges and to support efforts to integrate the country.
- i) To integrate youth in research work particularly to conflict resolution and making peace efforts.
- i) To secure friendly and cooperative international system, &
- k) To present actual positive image of Pakistan.

Publications

Monographs, Annual Reports, Monthly Briefs, Special Reports, and Weekly Rundown

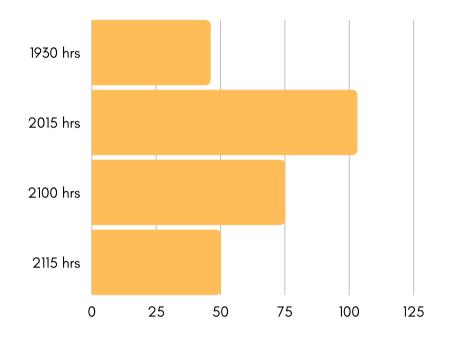
Concept Note

The world once again is on the brink of a new age. Traditional or non-traditional crisis have led globe to an unprecedented change. Due to increase in nationalistic sentiments, the global politics is also shifting its dynamics with times. From global pandemic to parochial politics, all has affected people as well as states'. The skies of globalization have been scattered and a new global reality is dawning where the human civilization is entering into an unknown. Henceforth, there is a need to keep studying and devising updated discourse on such phenomenon. In this regard Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) is organizing a one day online international conference "Growing Ultra-nationalism In the Contemporary World" to sketch an overarching view of this new reality.

Webinar Proceedings

Webinar was scheduled to begin at 7;30 PM PST. Ms Sabah Aslam, Executive Director and Founder Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution(IICR) welcomed all the guests and eminent speakers. Hereafter, Dr. Salma Malik, Assistant Professor, Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad moderated the session.

The webinar was attended by International Audience as well



Facebook live viewership till November 25 171

Audience Reach



Online International Conference

Webinar on "Growing Ultra-Nationalism in Contemporary World" by Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR)

Organized by IICR on 19 November 2020, Thursday.

To discuss the dynamics of the global politics due to various emerging crisis and the manipulation of nationalistic sentiments that is leading to the worldwide impacts enveloping the states and their people, the IICR arranged an online international conference. The conference was based on the theme of "Growing Ultra-Nationalism in contemporary world". Four eminent speakers, Sir Michael Kugelman, Dr. Nazir Hussain, Professor Hamit Ersoy, and Dr Sheikh Waleed Rasool presented their respective remarks on the topic to enlighten the audience on this particular issue.

Dr. Nazir Hussain:

The discussion started with the views of Dr. Nazir Hussain who is a Professor of International Relations/Dean Faculty of Social Sciences at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad-Pakistan. Dr Nazir Hussain elaborated the Growing Ultra-Nationalism and its Implications on Global Politics. According to him, the rise in Ultra-Nationalism during the last decade had visible impacts on North America, Europe, and many parts of Asia. International actors use the ultra-nationalism as a tool to propagate their own ideologies. It has two facets; the domestic and the international. In order to win and the gain the trust of the public, be it the America's First Slogan of Donald Trump or Brexit in Europe, or "Indian Hindutva", all created challenges for the minorities living in these region. Even in Pakistan General (Retd) Musharraf tried "Pakistan First" slogan but he was unable to win popular support. The governments or the authoritarian civil rules in the United States, France, Spain, Russia, China, Turkey and India manifested their brands of ultra-nationalist tendencies. The populist movement differ from region to region, person to person and actor to actor. It had a different impact in India and rather positive impacts in Russia where Mr Putin is now able to reassert Russia globally. However, in Europe unfortunately, it is equated with racism. However, ultra nationalism is not visible in China where they are still following the traditional approach. Ultra nationalism is being manipulated by state actors according to their perspectives.

This phenomenon is short-lived. Sooner or later, it would give way to a harmonious world through shared destiny. The populist idea of America First by Trump did not last long and within four years he is replaced by Joe Biden. Today, we are living in the era of uncertainty because of Covid-19 where we now have a new normal but that too will eventually go away with time.

Dr. Hamit Ersoy:

Professor Dr. Hamit Ersoy from IZU, Istanbul Turkey shared his remarks on the topic "Is Ultra-nationalism Solution to the Intensified Globalization Threat?". Dr. Hamit presented his views where he explained that Ultra-nationalism has negative impacts in all aspects of life. Its racist aspect is one of the most dangerous definition. Ultra-nationalism is a key foundation of fascism. He sees ultra-nationalism as an extension of the globalization where the purpose is to achieve a universal identity. It has been damaging the social, cultural, economic, and political facets in the whole world. For Muslims, they have been the victim of ultranationalism, Islamophobia, xenophobia. He further added that the UN system was designed to contain nascent nationalisms within post-colonial borders. There is an infamous vicious cycle, where there were nation-states first, then the globalization, then macro/state-nationalism leading to ultra-nationalism and finally followed by micro-nationalism. The Muslim intellectuals and academia need to invent and utilize their own perceptions of the world, otherwise there is no way out. The more nationalistic policies they adopt the more divided Muslims become. The Muslim communities need to understand Islam as it is. Unless each and every Muslim man and woman truly believes in the importance of unity, the ultranationalist will continue to create disturbance.

Dr Sheikh Waleed Rasool:

Our third speaker was Dr. Sheikh Waleed Rasool, who is Director, Institute of Multitrack Dialogue, Development and diplomatic studies. He presented the topic "Ultranationalism to Fascism: The trajectory from, Nehruvian socialism to Modism in India". Dr. Waleed highlighted Modism in India, because in the Modi Regime, there has been a continuous rise in the hyper-nationalism throughout India. Modi's narrative of fascism is now a genuine ideology. He emphasized on the role played by media for the propagation of the anti-Pakistan and Hindu-nationalist agenda. It is powered by the chemistry of five key factors in set pattern. 1) The triumph of Sang

Pariwar in two consecutive elections had replaced conventional nationalism 2) The religious connotation of Hindutva has replaced the tolerable Hinduism 3) The upper-class Brahminism has not only collapsed the Nehruvian-socialism and pseudo-secularism but also defeated Nehru-Gandhi combination of tolerance. 4) The scientific language to consolidate fascism has given the Hindutva acceptability among the middle class in India. 5) The religious-model of an economy based on worshipping Lakshmi is the new position of Indian upper class. 5) The Vanday Matrum has been now worshiped as God. Therefore, Bharat Mata is an ultra-model of Hindutva doctrine and Kashmir is the crown of Devi. The complex relationship of the evolution of fascism of India was facing theatrical difficulties to understand nationalism in ultra-modern shape, However, it is a successful practice in the Indian frame. The net result to augment the hyper-nationalism gave birth to Mr. Modi, as a charismatic leader. Globalization is an important phenomena for better economy, the Hindutva has developed its own model. At present India is in a constant tussle with its neighbours including Pakistan, China and Nepal.

Micheal Kugelman:

Mr. Micheal Kugelman, who is the Asia Program deputy director and senior associate for South Asia at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC. He talked about the evolution and rather devolution of the idea of nationalism. Nationalism is a term that has been with us for centuries. In earlier times, it was a principle that inspired hope and optimism — a force that unified people around shared ideals of nationhood, overthrew monarchies and led to the formation of new countries. Nationalism in present era is currently unrecognizable. It appears to be a top-down directorial imposed affair. It is used as a catch-all term for all negative sentiments. The term is used by authorities to justify their divisive rhetoric. Governments in many developing and developed countries such as the US, Brazil, India, Philippines, Hungry, can be categorized as such countries.

The main message of the authoritarian rule or the governments in various regions is that you are not a true citizen of the state unless you agree with the ideologies of these governments that can be very toxic. Moreover, anyone who does not agree with this divisive and toxic agenda is labelled as anti-national as is done commonly in India. This negative aspect of nationalism present threats to tolerance, and it might take us a long time to recover.

The online	conference	was then fo	llowed by	the quest	ion and a	nswer	session
where the	participants	asked their	questions	from the 1	respective	e speak	ers.

Recommendations:

- While establishing the advanced stage of Hindutva with Moditva and Modisim. This narrative shall be put in literature as the horrible face of Neo-Hindutva and we shall consolidate this discourse to the world.
- We shall focus on two prong strategy.
 - 1) We shall not annoy the majority of Hindus on the basses of Hinduism because it will irritate majority. We need to give some space because there are some sane people within India who are also threatened by Neo-Hinduism though they are not friends of Pakistan. because more damage is done by Nehruvian Socialism.
 - 2) We shall promote our patriotism under Neo-Nationalism and induct it as a political philosophy under the compulsions of post-modernism. We need a team and we shall invest in them will be our constituency while answering their questions why Neo-nationalism is must to consolidate patriotism.
- Pakistan should oppose any ultra-nationalism in the region, especially the RSS ideology of Hindutva.
- Pakistan should prepare the international public opinion at all world foras to discourage the Ultra-Nationalism and how it is challenging the global order.
- The Muslim intellectuals and academia need to invent and utilize their own concepts in order to become able to read the universe and the world in according with our own perspective and put an end to the intellectual dependence on the outside world.
- The political leaders of the Muslim countries need to realize that the more nationalistic policies they adopt and pursue, the more divided their countries are bound to become, even if not in the short term, but certainly they would become in the long term.
- Regardless of their ethnic and national affiliations, the Muslim nations, societies and communities need to understand Islam as it is in the authentic Islamic sources and get united in the minds and hearts of every individual member of the ummah
- Unless each and every Muslim man and woman truly believes in the importance of unity and solidarity of the ummah as a whole, forces of evil including ultranationalists will continue to disrupt anything positive in the world in general and in the Muslim world in particular.

- Therefore, the Muslim peoples and states need to get united to create the
 unity within the Islamic territories in order to become a credible partner for
 international community to encounter and overcome the ultrapatriotic
 ideologies and movements at global level and have a great impact on global
 politics for a better world.
- Incorporating a crystal clear international regulation into the international law which bans all forms of ultranationalist ideologies and movements so that a global war can be launched against such movements within a framework of a concerted international operation.
- Relating the international regulation on ultranationalism with the human rights in general and hate speech in particular and stipulate certain number of sanctions depending and the severity of the cases.
- Implementing the criminal codes about human rights violations already in force at national level until the specific international regulation on ultranationalism is adopted by the international community preferably at the UN level.
- Effective and proper use of audio-visual media services including video sharing platforms (TV, radio and VPNs) for a more tolerant understanding towards all kinds of differences within the country.
- Launch of national campaign by governmental institutions for formation of a positive public opinion on existing differences of any kind in a way to strengthen the unity of citizens rather than weakening it.
- Securing the civil society support for the containment of ultranationalist ideologies and movements both at national level and global level.
- Ensuring the support of the clergy in every country to form the public opinion during the public services including the Friday sermons church sermons.
- Drafting out a proper curriculum for teaching human rights standards at all levels of education including higher education programs.
- Achieving a common understanding to have the same degree of sanctions and punishment of all kinds of ultranationalist acts including xenophobic, anti-semitic and Islamophobic acts.
- The last but not the least is to have the fully functioning democratic institutions in the country with full international cooperation at global level.

Press Coverage







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Islamabad

IICR organises conference on 'Growing Ultra-nationalism in Contemporary World'

By News desk - November 21, 2020



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Pakistan

Experts discuss pros and cons of growing ultra nationalism

Rising ultra-nationalism threatens co-existence The last speaker on the panel was Michael Kugelman who shared his thoughts on the topic. While addressing the audience he said that nationalism is a term that has been with us for centuries

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