

Volume 3, Issue 2 (Fall 2018)

# YOUTH PERSPECTIVES

A biannual publication of



Foundation for Advancement of  
Independent Research & Learning for  
International Peace & Security  
(FAIRLIPS)

# YOUTH PERSPECTIVES

## Description:

*Youth Perspectives* is a magazine of the **Foundation for Advancement of Independent Research and Learning for International Peace and Security (FAIRLIPS)** that aims to promote independent research and learning, both indispensable for securing international peace and security. It strongly adheres to the principle of unequivocal respect for humanity, religious beliefs of all communities and the local laws.

*Youth Perspectives* endeavours to advance foundation's objectives mainly to develop habit of learning and inculcate practice of writing among youth particularly undergraduate students of universities and colleges in a bid to prepare and promote a new generation of writers on subjects of diverse nature. It also strives to invite and encourage youth particularly students to participate in healthy debates, through their writings, in a positive and constructive manner.

*Youth Perspectives* provides young and talented writers from across the country a forum and opportunity to express their views and contribute on issues of their interest in a studious manner. It mainly, but not exclusively, encourages undergraduate students of universities and colleges to pen down their thoughts on contemporary issues of diverse nature.

*Youth Perspectives* invites young, talented and emerging scholars and writers to send their **opinion articles of about 600-800 words** on any current issue or historical event etc. Prospective writers can contribute on topics related to politics, economy, international relations, peace, security, human rights, environment, water scarcity, health, education, culture, sports, social issues, and role of media etc.

## Ethical Guidelines:

*Youth Perspectives* stands for promoting peace, love, concord and harmony at all levels. Thus, prospective contributors are advised / expected to avoid controversial contents and hate material of every sort. Writers are also expected to respect Pakistan's constitution, laws including cyber laws, and institutions especially the integrity of country's judiciary and armed forces, as well as religious and sectarian beliefs of the citizens. The material that can spread religious, sectarian, racial and ethnic divide and hatred will not be published.

## Disclaimer:

The views expressed in the *Youth Perspectives* or solely of the author(s) and do not represent the official point of view of the foundation (FAIRLIPS) or its team members.

Volume 3, Issue 2 (Fall 2018)

## **YOUTH PERSPECTIVES**

**A biannual publication of**



Foundation for Advancement of  
Independent Research & Learning for  
International Peace & Security  
(FAIRLIPS)

EDITOR:

**Shahzada Rahim Abbas**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Author's Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1.	Wajih Ullah	Determinants of China's Maneuvering in Afghanistan	01
2.	Sheraz Ahmed	People of the World, Unite against Fake News	04
3.	Shahzada Rahim	The Dilemma of Convention on Genocide	08

Foundation for Advancement of  
Independent Research & Learning for  
International Peace & Security  
(FAIRLIPS)

## **Determinants of China's Maneuvering in Afghanistan**

**( Wajih Ullah )**

Geographical position of any country makes its importance in world arena both in economic and strategic terms. Afghanistan located at prime location of Central Asia and shares borders with Pakistan, China, Iran, Central Asian States and adjacent to Middle Eastern Countries that are rich in oil and natural gas. Afghanistan pays its price for strategic location, different great games, played in this region not only for its natural resources but connecting different regions of the world. Afghanistan where no colonial power had a capacity to make a colony because of its history, the invasion of Soviet December 1979 changes the internal external dynamics of Afghan politics. In 1937, the French diplomat Rene Dolloot described Afghanistan as “Switzerland of Asia.”

Afghanistan has unique and significance geography makes its important in world arena that connects South Asia to Central Asia. Chinese dream to connect different regions of the world to boost the economic activity by developing the rail network, road infrastructure projects and ports to increase maritime trade. After the withdrawal of NATO and ISAF forces from Afghanistan in 2014, China became a major player in this conflict by playing its effective role to stable the internal situation of country. The Taliban “Spring Offensive” of 2016 after the end of winter a series of attack on Kabul and forces makes the situation critical.

China play an effective card in international politics by pursuing the agenda of economic cooperation since date backs in era of Silk Road. The relations were established in 1955 and then enhanced in 1964 as “Treaty of Economic and Technical Cooperation”. Afghanistan is lucky in terms of natural resources like iron, copper, marble, coal, precious metals, gemstones and hydrocarbon some

which of them was discovered while most of them untapped due to ongoing conflict.

According to Afghan and American Geological Surveys, conducted between 2007 and 2009, deposits of copper, mercury, rare-earth elements, sulfur, chromite's, asbestos, potash, graphite, and sand and gravel were found in over 20 mineralized areas. The survey reveals that, "The most significant known metal deposits are of copper and iron. The total copper resources in Afghanistan range up to 60 million metric tons of copper of which the sediment-hosted copper deposits at Anya are estimated to contain nearly 30 million metric tons copper. Resources in undiscovered porphyry copper and skarn deposits are estimated to be about 28.5 million tons of copper, with additional molybdenum, gold, and silver resources. During the first decade of the 21st Century, trade between China and Afghanistan has steadily increased and China has emerged as one of the main exporters to Afghanistan. China is making substantive contributions in terms of developing the natural resources and infrastructure of Afghanistan".

China first and foremost desire is to stable the Afghanistan internal situation. In this regard china play its effective role as regional player to overcome any foreign involvement in this region. That not only creates a tension but disturbing the regional political environment. According to Davood Moradiyan of Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, Kabul, "The Chinese are ambiguous. They don't want the Taliban to return to power and are concerned about a vacuum after 2014 that the Taliban could fill, but they also don't like having U.S. troops in their neighborhood" another Chinese expert, Andrew Small, "If you look across Central Asia that is what has already happened. China is the only actor which can foot the level of investment needed in Afghanistan to make it succeed and stick it out".

In addition to that, China purposing a constructive dialogue process, to engage Taliban on negotiation table, the only non- military solution of Afghan conflict.

The win-win possibility is need of hour. Composite dialogue with all regional partners, Pakistan sharing porous border with Afghanistan, India dominating and close ally of Afghan government, Iran hold its strong footprints in this region and America the major stake holder of the conflict.

*Wajih Ullah is a student of BS (Politics and International Relations) at International Islamic University, Islamabad.*

**People of the World, Unite against Fake News**  
**( Sheraz Ahmed )**

The century we all are living in is colloquially termed the century of information. It indeed has proved itself to be an era in which information from one part of the world is transmitted within milliseconds to the other side of the globe, by clicking a single button. This fast transfer of information has had a very significant impact on the way the world has changed.

One such example is of Mohamed Bouazizi, the Tunisian street vendor whose self-immolation in 2010 set off the Arab Spring uprisings. According to testimonies of other vendors present at the scene, a council inspector named Ms Hamdy was confiscating Mohamed Bouazizi's fruit, and when Mr Bouazizi resisted, she slapped him in the face in return and asked her colleagues to beat him. On the very same day, Mr Bouazizi, embarrassed and humiliated by the treatment at the hands of state authorities, drenched himself in paint thinner and lit his body on fire. He died on January 4. A video of the gentleman setting himself on fire went viral over the social media sites and this proved to be the first step in the long series of putsches known as the Arab Spring. Decades-old monarchies and dictatorships were overthrown by the people in the coming years, and at the center of it all was the power of social media; a tool that proved to be mightier than tanks and nuclear missiles.

During my childhood, while discussing philosophy my late uncle once told me that, "an army of philosophers is insufficient to turn a lie into the truth". I strongly believed in this notion until I came across social media and the books of Joseph Goebbels. During Hitler's reign of fascistic terror in Germany, Joseph Goebbels, the Reich Minister of Propaganda of Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945, said, "It



would not be impossible to prove with sufficient repetition and a psychological understanding of the people concerned that a square is, in fact, a circle. They are mere words, and words can be molded until they clothe ideas and disguise.” But the reader might be compelled to ask as to what the relevance of the aforementioned saying is, product of a long-gone era and an obsolete empire, in the 21st century – the century of the free flow of information and knowledge.

It has been 14 years since the invention of Facebook and 12 years since the creation of micro-blogging website Twitter. With many people posting and sharing content on various social media sites, it has become too hard, and in some cases impossible, to separate facts from fiction. Most of the data that is shared over these sites is neither fact checked nor are any statistics or references provided to cross-check the claims. The trend of spreading fake news items over recent times has surged drastically.

How easily can a fake news item get viral over the social networking sites can be gauged by a video of an Imran Khan look-alike driving a Suzuki Mehran car! Numerous Pakistani social media users, mostly supporters of the ruling party of Imran Khan, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, went on a praise-spree of the country’s premier. Some started drawing a comparison between Imran Khan and the second caliph of Islamic Empire, while others titled him as the “Bravest Prime Minister on Earth”, apparently due to the absence of security vehicles around the vehicle that the person in the video was recorded driving. The cries of “Naya Pakistan Zindabad”, literally “Hail the New Pakistan”, echoed all over the social media. This all came to an end when the look-alike himself came forward and issued a clarification that it was him, not the Prime Minister, who was filmed driving that car.

Another fake story about Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the daughter of deposed Premier of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, went viral. The fake screenshot doctored to pose as

a Dawn.com article was widely circulated around all sections of social media. The post attempted to misinform the public by claiming that the PML-N leader was expecting a child. Consequently, the news website had to post a clarification story on the issue, along with a detailed method.

In order to battle the rise of fake news, the Ministry of Information, Pakistan, had to launch an official Twitter handle. But the most surreal thing happened on the very first day when the official “Fake News Buster” handle had to tweet about another account that was trying to impersonate as official government Fake News Buster handle. Things haven’t gone out of hand only in Pakistan. The vicious cycle of deception and deceit has become a universal phenomenon.

Recently, Cambridge Analytica, a data analytics firm that worked with Donald Trump’s election team, headed at the time by Trump’s key adviser Steve Bannon, was called out for using the personal information of millions of Facebook users, without their prior consent. The data was used to build a mechanism that profiled US voters, to target them with personalized political advertisements. Using intimate information of people to bombard their Facebook walls with personalized propaganda material was a gross violation of the people’s right to Freedom of choice. This was one of the biggest data breaches in the history of Facebook.

These stories of deliberate propagation of fake news and misinformation seem quite harmless when compared to the things that have happened in India. In Jaipur, the capital city of India’s Rajasthan, WhatsApp, the messaging service of Facebook, is running a campaign, through performing arts, to spread awareness about Fake News. WhatsApp has 200 million users in India, more than anywhere in the world. It has also been reported by various media outlets that fake news has triggered numerous lynching events in the country. WhatsApp’s efforts to battle the rise of fake news isn’t limited to Skits. It has also launched numerous

newspaper and radio campaigns. To efficiently battle this menace, they were also forced to put a limit on the forward message option present in the app.

It has been more than a decade since the death of Algerian-French philosopher Jacques Derrida, but it is sad that his works have remained as relevant, in some cases more relevant, compared to the time in which they were originally written. The triangle of misinformation, propaganda, and fake news can prove fatal for the natural cycle of a society's development. Time has come that the works of Derrida be exhumed from the dusty shelves of public libraries and studied as part of the defense training to immune one's mind from catching the deadly disease of Fake News. The slogan of this century ought to be, 'People of the World, Deconstruct.'

*Sheraz Ahmed is a Human Rights Activist based in Islamabad. He presently serves as the President of Law Students' Council and is associated with Roshni Publication Pakistan as Editor.*

## **The Dilemma of Convention on Genocide**

( Shahzada Rahim )

Since the age of exploration, the dynamics of war and conflict had changed. Europe till the dawn of industrial revolution in the late 18th century, can be termed as the era of war and conquest. This was era of brutal conflicts in the name of religion, sect, ethnicity and race but the word genocide was not contextualized throughout the classical modern era. The word genocide only came to literary and legal textbooks after the Jewish holocaust under Hitler's Germany. It was Raphael Lemkin, a polish Jew, who drafted the genocide convention, which was unanimously adopted by the members of united nation on December 9th, 1948. Perhaps, the draft was adopted and ratified as reaction to Nazi atrocities during world war II.

Raphael Lemkin was the person who found a proper word for what then British Prime minister Winston Churchill referred as—A crime without name. According to 1948 convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide—it refers to the “acts intended to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, and religious group”. Though, it has been nearly 60 years since the convention was adopted but its effectiveness remained in oblivion. Soon after the drafted resolution, United States and Great Britain refrained from ratifying the convention because America feared about its bitter past, when the indigenous red Indians were annihilated by the colonizers while Great Britain feared the accountability for its atrocities committed across colonies. With this political abstinence, the role of United Nations came at the crossroad incessantly failing to prevent the heinous crimes around the world.

Now let's not dig deeper into history instead the most recent example of heinous geocide can be seen in Myanmar, Iraq and Syria under ISIS, Democratic republic

of Congo and in Sudan. In Myanmar, the violent extirpation of ethnic Rohingyas by the Buddhist vigilantes in Rakhine state is the worst of its kind since world war II. The ethnic Rohingyas are Muslims and are of Bengali descent that makes the majority in the Rakhine state of Myanmar bordering Bangladesh. According to United Nations more than 90,000 ethnic Rohingyas have so far fled from the Rakhine state to neighboring Bangladesh fearing prosecution. The living conditions inside the refugee camps are desperate, exclaimed the UN report.

Likewise, Sudan which is suffering from brutal civil war between Christians in the South and Muslims in the North finally led the division of the country in 2011. In 2003, a brutal genocide took place in Darfur in which more than 300,000 innocents were killed by the Sudan government backed militias. The government of Sudan denied the genocide by saying the death toll has been grossly exaggerated and international community remained silent, utterly disparaged.

On the other hand, in Iraq Islamic state after capturing Mosul attempted to erase the Yazidis, an ethnic and religious minority living in Iraq for centuries. Under the harsh Shariah rule, the Islamic State ordered to kill all the Yazidi men and to enslave their children and women. A large-scale mass murder of Yazidi Community and mass rape of Yazidi women were reported under the cruel rule of Islamic state. According to estimates, around 10,000 ethnic Yazidis were slaughtered by the Islamic State in Iraq and more than 300,000 fled to the neighboring Kurdistan region as a refugee.

However, these are some recent examples, but the human history has seen worst atrocities committed in the name of religion, sect, race and ethnicity. For instance, the Armenian genocide of 1915, in which one million Christian Armenians were slaughtered by the Muslim Ottomans. Likewise, Srebrenica genocide during the Yugoslavian war, in which more than 8000 ethnic Muslim Bosnians were slaughtered by the Serbian armed militias. In the same pattern, a worst genocide

took place in Vietnam after American invasion in which more than 1.5 million Vietnamese were slaughtered through carpet bombing by the American Air Force.

In contrast, one of the most interesting fact about these heinous crimes is that not even a single person was convicted for these crimes by the international Criminal tribunal and court. Although, there have been structural development to execute the convention on genocide. For instance, the International Tribunal for convicting war crimes was established in 1992, while the International Criminal court was established in 2002, but none of them have been resilient in preventing these heinous crimes. Perhaps, this raises the question on the performance of the United Nations in preventing War and Conflicts which has further emboldened the dilemma of implementation of the convention on genocide—the crimes don't seem to be heinous.

*Shahzada Rahim is a student of Politics & International Relations with keen interest of writing on history, geopolitics, Current affairs, and International political economy.*