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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 The material that can spread religious, sectarian, racial and ethnic divide and hatred will not be published.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.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| S. No. | Author's Name | Title | Page No. |
|---------------|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Majid Essa Ali | United States' Over-Inflated Ego towards Pakistan | 01 |
| 2. | Shaista Tahir | Peace Building, Conflict Prevention and the Role of Media | 03 |
| 3. | Sabeen Jabbar | Indian Public Diplomacy and Challenges for Pakistan | 07 |

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UNITED STATES' OVER-INFLATED EGO TOWARDS PAKISTAN

(Majid Essa Ali)

Pakistan has been United States' one of the closest allies since the inception of cold war and more specifically after 9/11 when Pakistan was designated as US's non-NATO ally in the region. United States' relations with Pakistan experienced many ups and downs. According to reports, Pakistan received \$33 billion since 2001, for counter-terrorism measures and war on terror mission, including \$3.8 billion from Foreign Military Financing (FMF) funds. Pakistan was 5th largest recipient of American aid in 2015. On return Pakistani military launched several efficient operations in the tribal areas to eradicate terrorists and their hideouts. But these operations had a backlash in the form of severe fatal attacks, leaving Pakistan in turbulence. Since then Pakistan lost more than \$100 billion, 58,000 civilians and thousands of soldiers crippled and martyred. On the contrary, Washington never acknowledged such efforts and always insisted to 'Do more'. The United States' reactions on several occasions exploited Pakistan's efforts. Pakistan has been viewed as disregarded and hence used as a pawn.

Pakistan's Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) was accused by Pentagon of having backed the terrorists attack on CIA outpost in 2009 by funding \$200,000 which was neither proved nor denied by Pakistan. Likewise, the GOP fore-runner from Republicans Donald Trump has shown his detest towards Pakistan on several occasions. Recently, he stated that he would get release Dr. Shakeel Afridi - who was detained by Pakistan - if he wins the election. Previously, he had commented that India is a check to Pakistan and called Pakistan's nuclear weapons in perilous hands. Moreover, the US congress holds reluctant stance when it comes to any sort of aid to Pakistan. Washington had offered Islamabad to buy 8 F-16 fighter jets. According to the deal, out of \$699 million, Pakistan would have to pay for \$240

million while the rest would be paid by US. This deal was excoriated by India. Congress declined the deal and called Pakistan to pay all the expenses and cited the F-16s to be a potential threat to India. In response, Pakistan sought to look into the matter and see an alternative if no way out. The situation became more ambiguous when the US defense Secretary Ashton Carter, paid an official visit to India couple of weeks ago.

Pentagon labeled Islamabad's war on terror struggles disproportionate, accusing it of targeting only Pakistani based TTP militants and ignoring Haqqani Network and Lashkar-e-Tayyaba insurgents who have killed several American soldiers. Furthermore, Washington is also concerned about the laws and policies Islamabad has adapted especially the laws regarding blasphemy. The US congressmen and lawmakers sought to forcefully pressurize and persuade Pakistan to amend its newly passed laws and formulated policies.

In a bird's eye view, the US has always treated Pakistan as its colony and regarded the aid as a good-well gesture. No doubt, with \$33 billion US aid to Pakistan, Islamabad has suffered a loss of thrice than the gain; hundreds of thousands killed, infrastructure devastated, economy almost collapsed, foreign investment halted, and country plunged into a state of quagmire and insecurity. Despite expressing its gratitude to Pakistan for its struggle of war on terror, the US has been insisting to "Do more." In order to maintain peace and stability in the region, and to enhance the political will of its regional counterpart of war on terror mission, Washington must respect Pakistan's sovereignty, acknowledge its role and eschew from such abominable statements.

Majid Essa Ali is a student of BS International Relations program of International Islamic University, Islamabad. His areas of interests include American studies, Diplomacy and Far East studies.

PEACE BUILDING, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND THE ROLE OF MEDIA

(Shaista Tahir)

Now a day, media becomes so much important in our society. We need media in order to collect the information whatever is happening around the world. Now media is not only use for collecting news, but it's also using for amusement, education, information, advertising and connection between the parties. Our society is very much influenced by media. As a watchdog, media helps to protect the public interests against malpractice. In nineteenth century, traditional media considered as a one source of collecting information but with the passage of time and advanced technology, electronic media and especially social media become most important sources of information regarding the domestic as well as international issues.

Media has strong capacity to inflame and endorse violence and abhorrence. In world war two, media had played a very crucial role in promoting Nazi propaganda campaigns. Likewise, in Rwandan genocide and the former Yugoslavia case. Media has quality to persuade the public perceptions and their opinions. Many times, media sponsors are used their power to accomplish their interests through monopoly of information. Mostly media promotes violence which is based on ethnicity and religious. Such as Indian and Pakistani media promote hate against each other. They project violence on minorities of one another states.

Johan Galtung talks about the peace and war journalism. The war journalism has aptitude to transform the violence. While peace journalism participates in conflict is preventing and peace building projects and its requirements to provide a new road map for tracing the tie between journalism, their sources and the

consequences of their reporting. If media avoids scattering disinformation and providing absolute information, then many troubles can be resolve without any commotion because it has clout to diffuse tensions. Possible solution and trying to thwart the conflict are the center of peace journalism.

Through various conferences, seminars, different cultural and political activities, peace journalism is promoting its message. The news media and journalists are also at the forefront of peace building initiatives. It is crucial for the safeguarding of democracy and peace. The digital revolution has augmented its impact on journalism. Media is powerful means and it can breed many reactions, nationally and internationally. Lack of information brings many problems and even conflicts among the people. So, access to free information is important for media to prevent conflict from escalating.

Media can provide early warning of emerging issues with conflicting trends. Domestic media should cooperate with international media broadcasting; both can play an effective role in peace building. Several secluded projects of media have been playing a role in peace building over the last twenty years. In prior decades, we have some cases those show the potential of media and its impact on people. Such as ‘good Friday agreement’ the British government used different types of media to acquire consent of public and in Rwanda genocide, when two radio stations were involved in encouraging ethnic detestation among the people. Then in 1995, new radio station established known as ‘wise words’ and had slogan ‘dialogue is the future’. This radio station contributed its efforts for peace building.

Information is power that is controlled by the media. Freedom of speech not only essential for media but it also used to strong the democratic structure. There are many states, who have taken initiatives to send their messages through media all across the world. These initiatives have good impact and facilitate to maintain the

peace and prevent conflict among the nations. In democratic states, media is playing effective role without any trepidation and recognize the problems in their societies. Therefore, these states are very much successful in conflict prevention.

There are some changes in political and cultural dimensions that we can easily observe, all because of mass media. But still conflicts exist whether on local level, intra-state, regional or international level. Media has power to manage or amend the policies of state. We have an example of CNN that played a role in the withdrawal of American troops from Somalia in 1990s and in Vietnam War.

While there are few challenges which have faced by media in peace building and conflict prevention. Such as media fortify democracy, but some democratic states treat mass media just like as non-democratic state. In November 2007, Army Chief of Pakistan General Pervaiz Musharraf implemented emergency in Pakistan and banded all private TV channels, which were against his policies. If state's government does not support, it's media then how media does work appropriately?

There is little discussion about the impact of media interventions on the peace building process. Recent trends have seen greater attention to media in peace building and stricter examination of media assistance. It is still not known, what is mandatory for a sustainable contribution to peace building via media. The media and peace building sector also face challenges in terms of clarifying concepts and approaches, improving design and implementation.

Now in twenty first century, internet becomes more significant in media's role. Media frequently use internet to grab the public opinion about any particular issue. However, through public participation, media can strongly impact on government's decisions. The primary need for people in a conflict situation is independent news service broadcasting. There should be a proper plan, strategy and design for media role in peace building and conflict prevention.

The peace building process may take a long time, but media becomes a vital tool to convey the message to the specific audience. Now media has extended its access in the era of globalization, especially in post cold war. Now era of globalization has different features from past. In this era, every nation has relationship with other nations and wants to maintain it because in this era no one state can live in isolation. Media gives them good opportunity to communicate with each other.

Shaista Tahir is a student of Fatima Jinnah Women University with keen interest of writing in politics.

INDIAN PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND CHALLENGES FOR PAKISTAN

(Sabeen Jabbar)

President Obama gave statement that, India is not emerging it has emerged. In many ways it is true that India has growing GDP and India has also rising soft image in world. In the 21st Century, Public diplomacy is considered as an important tool to present state's soft image in the world. Broadly speaking public diplomacy is communication with foreign people to establish a dialogue to influence. In case of India, it struggled a lot to show its potency in the fields of military, defence and economic as well. India is considered as emerged soft power in South Asia and World. India's growing economic and its defacto nuclear status given by the US have altered the external perceptions of India.

The undercurrent of India's public diplomacy is to show India as undeniable rising power through which India demands the permanent seat of Security Council. In past decades, India has invested more resources in public diplomacy, using traditional and new approaches to shape public opinion. India has well placed soft power resources because of its rich culture, history, technological advancement and democratic credentials, which helped India in building its image.

India is also regarded as 'Cultural Super Power' because its civilization and culture creates an interest and appeal for India abroad. In representing Indian culture, Indian media plays an important role as it shows Indian culture in an attractive

way for foreign public. And India's entertainment industry and Bollywood have also given India an edge over many other countries in the world, and enhanced India's image. Bollywood films are viewed by audiences in more than 70 countries. In 2013, the Indian entertainment and media industry was worth 29 billion dollars. Indian movies, dance, art, music became base of India's growing soft power.

The contribution of Indian authors to English literature has also been credited in increasing awareness and interest about Indian culture and society. Indian diaspora has played a pivotal role in shaping up positive policies towards India in many countries, especially the United States. In information age the free Indian press and thriving mass media has created an extraordinary ability for India through it can show images and stories in more persuasive and attractive way rather than its rivals. India is also competing with soft power of other countries like China, because China also expands its influence gradually all over the world, but India has an advantage over China because of its soft power resources. A world largest democracy with huge entertainment industry and media gave advantage to India's soft power over China.

Since 2000, Ministry of External Affairs of India had taken many initiatives in promoting their public diplomacy. Their main aim is to educate and influence global and domestic opinion and show a positive image of their state in international world. India's close relations with US has helped India in building

their soft image because they got the favour of US and being the world's largest democracy India has a political influence in the world. To promote public diplomacy, Indian government has started many campaigns and programs like 'Know India' programme which aims to show India's development and its interest all over the world.

The 'Brand India' is another important campaign that promotes Indian soft image. The main aim and objective of this campaign is to build positive economic perceptions of India globally. Along with this, Indian government is giving importance to shared educational and cultural programmes. Under this programme, it provides aid to different countries of Africa and Asia.

India's perception in the world is changing with technological advancement, rising soft power, military capability and economic growth. India can achieve only certain targets through public diplomacy, but the internal contradictions of the country cannot be hidden. Ever increasing poverty in India is a big question mark for Indian government. Mounting humanitarian crisis, persistent gender inequality, increasing rape incidents, and surge in cases of human rights violations are the main impediments to a successful Indian public diplomacy.

In recent years, human rights violation cases in large number have been reported in India. Especially under Modi government, rights of minority groups particularly Muslims were frequently violated. Due to these incidents, people in large number

came to streets protesting against Modi's government in many European countries. Still India has an advantage because of its soft image, due to which international community particularly the UN did not put sanctions or any kind of pressure on India.

If we compare Pakistan with India, our country is far behind in building its soft image in the world. Pakistan should give importance to public diplomacy because states are moving toward soft power in order to achieve their interests and goals. Pakistani government should take positive and useful initiatives in order to promote its soft image. Media can play important role in Pakistan by representing its culture because media is very strong tool in persuasion of public diplomacy. It can help in promoting the positive image. But unfortunately, media is working far away. In order to compete India in the region and the world at large, Pakistani government should spend more resources on public diplomacy, to show country's better image in the world.

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