

Whoever might have been responsible for the dastardly attacks, the way the American leadership has used them amply proves that the political leadership, military and economic administration in America were on the look for such happening to tighten its grip, create an emotional and disturbing atmosphere in the name of patriotism, and try to make the world serve the American interests through new restrictions after the end of the Cold War.

America has always needed a foe to meet its own objectives. It needed a new enemy after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the collapse of socialism. The Israeli lobby was busy in making the situation favourable for targeting Islam and Muslims. Academic discourse and media tactics were all dedicated to this purpose, but this could not produce the requisite impact. The events of Sept 11 provided that anxiously awaited opportunity: Islam, Muslims, Jihad, religious education institutions, Shariah, Arab money, even the West's trusted Arab rulers became easy targets and international law and norms, democratic principles and values, historical ties and relations became irrelevant. The salient features of the emerging political order are:

USA is the world's sole superpower and has the right to do what it likes to do for its own interests. Others are under obligation to extend their cooperation to it: It is better if they extend it happily, or they would be compelled to comply or America would do what it deems fit in spite of them and their difference. The same approach is that of Israel and India who are America's "natural allies" and who are emboldened by the example set by America to do what they want to. They are proceeding just on the same lines and justifying their aggression and cruel policies.

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September 11

The outline of Global Politics

Prof Khurshid Ahmad

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editorials for making public these information.)

Using Sept. 11 as an excuse, the American government has imposed the suppressive system of the medieval ages on a section of the population. Muslims, Arabs and Pakistan are its special targets. According to an estimate, more than 300 Pakistanis are passing through the ordeal.

A whole new system of intelligence and surveillance is being imposed that allows taping of phone, checking the mails, access to the Internet use and violation of all norms of privacy. Hint have been given to introduce a system of informers, which has surprised the media and the Congress members.

The government is using September 11 to impose a sort of police state in the country. The daily *Mirror*, London, wrote "Mourn on the 4th July" on the eve of America's Independence day. It lamented that "the US is now the world's leading police state."

Flouting the international law and norms, the American leadership has devised new rules of the game under which it considers 'regime change' as its rights in a country that fails to retain its pleasure. Similarly, some preemptive step is contemplated to bypass the UN Charter. This has compelled even Henry Kissinger, who has otherwise been on the same side, to say that: "Regime change as a goal for military intervention challenges the international system established by the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia, which established the principle of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other states. And the notion of justified preemption runs counter to modern international law, which sanctions the use of force in self-defense only against actual, not potential threats." (Henry Kissinger, *Los Angeles Times Syndicate* - Aug. 11, 2002)

Kissinger mentions the reservations of the European nations, the Arab countries and China. For Pakistan, he warns the implications of this approach: "The most interesting, and potentially fateful reaction may well be India's which will be tempted to apply the new principle of preemption against Pakistan." Kissinger has warned America against proceeding on this line and that it should adhere to the international law. But, the advice of this 'guru' apparently looks like a lonely voice.

America has openly violated international norms and the Geneva Convention on the issue of war and prisoners of war. It did not change its attitude in spite of criticism from international institutions, the media of Europe and the Third World, and intellectuals.

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ing new orders from the government. The energy industry is also taking benefit of this situation. And, these are the real forces operating in this biggest and powerful 'democracy' of the world. The power against whom President Eisenhower had warned in his last address to the American nation at the conclusion of his presidency is now 'making hay' and getting strength to the extent that even the role of military in internal affairs is being contemplated in the name of 'national security'.

The words of Eisenhower have assumed extraordinary relevance in the post-Sept. 11 scenario. In this address on Jan. 17, 1961 he had said: "This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is now in the American experience. The total influence - economic, political, even spiritual - is felt in every city, every statehouse, every office of the federal government. In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. The military-industrial complex should never be allowed to endanger our liberties or democratic process. We should take nothing for granted."

The print of this military-industry nexus is evident from the American policy since Sept. 11. The genie has come out of the bottle and is affecting each and every aspect of life in America itself. The democratic process, the liberties, and the civilizational values that have been considered a result of struggle of centuries are now endangered - both at the global level and in America. The common man is living out the life under tension.

Surveys show that the Sept. 11 events and their aftermath have affected the psychology and mentality. A new term PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) has been adopted to describe this. The impact of the events of Sept. 11 is far deeper than all other kinds of trauma. This situation is exper-

they want to. They are proceeding just on the same lines and justifying their aggression and cruel policies.

The US national security advisor Ms Condoleezza Rice has given expression to this haughty stand in the following words: "The Bush Administration would proceed from the firm ground of the national interest and not from the interest of an illusory international community." The reason behind this, according to Michael Retner, president of the Centre for Constitutional Rights, is: "There is not much backbone in the world against the United States. It has so many carrots and sticks. Some countries will snipe but the United States is so dominant right now it would take a lot to stop us."

Professor Allen Lichtman of history at the American University is compelled to say about the US President that: "In practice he can do almost whatever he wants in foreign affairs. There is little to check US power and presidential power. As a result, America has become a 'hyper power' that considers itself above all rules and regulations, traditions and norms. This is what makes America and its president a threat to global peace, to tranquillity and calm in human society." The famous US think tank CATO Institute's Gene Healy has cried out: "The idea that one man alone would have the power to launch a war of this magnitude would have the framers of the Constitution spinning in their graves."

The way America and its leadership have shaped themselves in the wake of Sept 11 is a threat for America itself as well as the entire world. This is not

tary assistance would be stopped if they refuse to give exemption to American forces. It is a shameful attempt to establish a new kind of apartheid.

America does not tire in teaching the lesson of free trade to others but for itself violates the regulations of World Trade Organization (WTO). It recently announced a 30 percent duty on the import of steel in spite of opposition of Europe and the rest of the world. It is providing subsidy for agriculture production that is harming the exports of the poor countries of the world. This is how it is neglecting all the targets of economic assistance to the countries of the Third World; it does not hesitate from practically sabotaging the efforts to help them.

Individual's rights are being flouted in America. Thousands of people – especially Arabs and Muslims – have been arrested without warrant or any proof of guilt. Some 1,200 people are in jails without any trials for complete one year, while many have died during interrogation. What to talk of conducting proper trials, even their names are not being divulged. The efforts of human rights organizations in this regard have failed. This has compelled some judges to say that the administration's attitude is against the principles of justice and democratic norms and that it should at least reveal the names of the jailed people. (District Judge ruling of Aug. 26, 2002 calling for providing the names of those who are languishing in jails without trials within 15 days. *The Washington Post* in its issue of Oct. 10, 2001 and *The New York Times* in that of Nov. 10, 2001 had asked in their

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At the international level; Afghanistan was the first target of attack. While neither Osama nor Mulla Omar could be captured, the US forces killed 3,620 innocent men, women and children in the bombing on civil populations from Oct. 7, 2001 to June 2002 in addition to the deaths of the Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters (exceeding 10,000) according to a careful estimate of the database of a professor of the Hampshire University. Then, the Northern Alliance perpetrated cruelties on the Afghan people in the name of fighting the Taliban and al-Qaeda, that took place before the eyes of the American forces, for which America cannot be acquitted from its own responsibility.

After Afghanistan, now the atmosphere is being created to attack Iraq. Forces and weapons are sent into the region and the bases of San Diego and Qatar are being prepared. Quite like Afghanistan, efforts are on to prop up a subservient regime in Iraq. Pakistan, Sudan, and Syria are on the list to be taken care of after the Iraq episode. Even Saudi Arabia has become a target of criticism; its rulers are being blackmailed and conspiracies for internal rebellion are being hatched. The same game plan is being orchestrated for Sudan. The world can only wait with bated breath to see what happens!

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In Afghanistan, those who had surrendered were brutally killed in large numbers, their corpses were mutilated, civil settlements and wedding gatherings were targeted even after the end of war and attempts to cover-up these acts and to destroy the evidence were made. Then, the prisoners of war were taken to the Guantanamo Base in Cuba so that the American law could not apply on them. The way these people were kept under detention and the cruel treatment resulted in many deaths. This all is in open violation of the Geneva Convention. No guilt has been proved after the lapse of eight months. According to the American newspapers, not a single person has been al-Qaeda member. In them are 30 Pakistanis, but there is no one to take them out of the ordeal.

If any person has benefited from this whole episode, it is president Bush. His election as president was doubtful, but now he commands blind following, covers up financial scandals, and consolidating his presidency through political confrontation. Then, a big benefit goes to the military and weapons industry whose budget has been raised to the tune of \$400 billion. According to the latest *Newsweek* report, the sale of arms of America, which is the largest trader of arms and weapons in the world, was going down since the year 2000. But now, this industry is receiv-

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While the whole nation is experiencing mental disorder and stress, the leadership is bent upon spreading this so-called war to the widths and breadths of the world with no one worried over the fact that the problem of terrorism cannot be eliminated with media war, or military intervention, or bombing the innocent in the name of search for the elusive enemy. Even the country is being thrown to the throes of uncertainty and fear, along with the people of other countries. The preparations of developing mini-nukes are on to strike at specific targets. The spadework for this is under way and the atmosphere is being created to use them as the most effective weapons in the so-called war against terrorism by coming out of the restriction of NPT and CTBT. While military intervention is contemplated to deprive others of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), stockpiles of the same weapons are amassed and used blatantly, with warnings and more preparations of their use in future. What else the world can be expected to react to this brutality, coercion and 'getting away with it' other than showing its hatred? Yet, it is asked as if with a surprise as to "Why do they hate us?"

The writer is Chairman of the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad; and former Senator.