

All elections are over. The people have spoken. There are victors and the vanquished. However, there were very few casualties. The casualties were those who tried to claim for a monopoly in national leadership. The prominent, unfortunate casualty number one was Mr. Sarath Fonseka.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa never claimed the 'monopoly' of leadership. He stated that the victory over terrorism was the result of a combined effort. The people knew it.

Winds of Change

The battle against the LTTE was led by the political determination of President Mahinda Rajapaksa and effectively supported by the Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Army Commander Sarath Fonseka, Chief of the Navy Vice Admiral Vasantha Karannagoda, Air Marshal Roshan Gunatilake and thousands of unnamed soldiers, naval men and air men.

A Special mention should be made of Vasantha Karannagoda because of the main force of the LTTE were the sea tigers who did enormous damage by assisting the Diaspora to smuggle in many arm loads. Our Navy was capable of destroying a few ships and a number of boats and chasing the rest into the international waters.

There is one factor in this election that has to be recognised. For the first time the voters of Sri Lanka had realised that there is (and was) an international conspiracy to bring to power Governments favourable to the neo-colonial powers, The target



By S Piyasena
former Deputy High
Commissioner in Chennai

was the supremacy in the Indian Ocean, Thirty three years ago the neo-colonial powers succeed in toppling non aligned governments both in India and Sri Lanka. But the people of India realised how they were duped and turned the clock back in 1980.

However, neo-imperialist powers tried their best to 'plant' separatist governments in Sri Lanka with the assistance of the Diaspora. They nearly succeeded in 2002. But the attempt failed in May 2009.

Now let us turn to the historical value of the Parliamentary Election of 2010.

For this we must go back to the parliamentary election history of the country with special significance on the results of the Jaffna peninsula.

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1947 not a single member of any national political party obtained a seat in the whole of Northern Province. All UNP candidates including Home Minister, Sir Arunachalam Mahadeva (Jaffna) Mr.S. Natesan

(Kankasanthurai) and Mr. Jeganthan Thyagarajah (Mannar) were defeated. Six out of the seven electoral divisions in the Jaffna peninsula were captured by the All Ceylon Tamil Congress led by Mr. G.G Ponnambalam. The other seat went



Sir John Kotelawela

to an Independent.

In 1952, the UNP won the Kankasanthurai seat with the backing of the Tamil Congress on a mutual understanding. However, the lone member elected (Mr. Natesan) who was appointed as Minister of Post, resigned in January 1956 when the United National Party decided that 'Sinhala only should be the official language of Ceylon'.

The 1956 election was called 'one and half years prematurely' by Sir John Kotelawela to seek a mandate for the policy of Sinhala only. In this election six out of the nine seats in the Northern Province were won by the Federal Party, one by the Tamil Congress and one by a hardcore Tamil politician while one seat (Point Pedro) was secured by the Communist Party. After Mr. Kandiah's victory, no political party except the Federal Party and Tamil Congress was able to capture a single seat in the Jaffna peninsula for 54 long years.

However, in last month's general election the tide had turned. Despite the fact the polling was low (which was usual since 1977) the UPFA captured three seats in the Jaffna district and the UNP one seat while the TULF polled only 43% of the total votes cast. The UPFA polled 32% and the UNP 8%. The Left parties also had obtained over 1% of the votes. This new trend is a great victory for the forces of nation reconciliation. Even the TULF should realise these 'winds of change'



HIGH-TECH URBAN MILITARY OPERATIONS IN FUTURE AMERICAN WATER WARS

Under the influence of the former neo-conservatives of the Bush era, the US administration's think-tanks have dared to venture where no World Bank, IMF, or United Nations agencies have feared to tread. After taking over the world's oil-fields (the current "arc of instability") the target in the next twenty years is control of the world's water resources.

So, the propaganda war has begun with an assertion that the feral, failed cities of the third world and their huge slum neighbourhoods will become distinctive battlegrounds of this century. While the exact "threat" to "our" lifestyles has not yet been articulated, it will be shaped by a need for a low-intensity world war of unlimited duration against some form of "criminal" element endemic to the urban poor.

America's strategists have a fear of urban warfare after heavy losses in the killing zones of Vietnam, for example. Therefore, grievous casualties are only tolerated among local civilian populations, inflicted, say, by indiscriminate aerial bombardment. The ongoing catastrophes that are Afghanistan and Iraq are other examples of unexpected personnel losses. American troops,

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struggling in the labyrinthine squalor of Baghdad's massive slum, Sadr City is a mere test for war planners, who use concurrent data to manufacture high-tech urban weapons against slum dwellers of the future.

Several reasons exist for this compulsion for the use of fantasy "threats" under any pretext. Note that they are mostly confined to the art of war-making, rather than aged-care, child-health, black education, indigenous land-rights or migrant housing. Note the lack of American funding for researching endangered environments, human immune-deficiency diseases or climate change. They only seem to care about "security" (presently against Islamo-fascist "terrorists") in a totally weaponised and grim planet.

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ation off fictional future "threats" while creating the kind of "realities" they dream of at our expense. Their urban operations manuals now seem to propose the inevitability of conflict linked to "national security" objectives and strategy at the choosing of their commanders. Economic deprivation and lack of food and housing, characterise the urban slums. Naturally they engender revolutionary idealism. However,

Lasantha Pethiyagoda

these "hot-spots" are seen as potential theatres for the US military to conduct "stabilising operations" in the absence of "traditional social controls of village elders or tribal leaders". They further assert that "non-state" elements can be of concern. Imagine the consequences for Dhaka, Jakarta or Nairobi.

The high-tech computerised killing facilitators and related US army training manuals seem to suggest that foreign slum cities pose "threats" that need to be controlled and "feared" by the West's public in the next couple of decades. Together with multi-billion dollar contracts for construction of a variety of urban terrain war-training centres, the Pentagon seems to have launched a development program for heavily armed remote controlled robots in urban theatres of the future.

The US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has apparently been dreaming of futuristic water wars where countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil and the Congo might become lucrative markets. It articulates future scenarios as conflicts in high-density urban areas where enemies have social and cultural traditions that may be counter-intuitive to them (US) and whose actions often seem irrational due to a lack of understanding of their context.

The war colleges in major US universities now develop computer programs to predict the level of "enmity" in a given neighbourhood of a given country. Leaving aside already "instabilised" countries like Iraq, Afghanistan or Palestine, we can examine China, Venezuela, Zimbabwe or Iran for the sake of diversity in awareness of, attitudes for or against the US, and their political

history. Densely populated centres in a given capital or regional city are classified for their "crime supporting structures" which can include anything from "hostile behaviour of actors", political ideologies promoted, extent of dependence on American trade (or "aid") to the catch-all "evil types" called "terrorists".

Under the description "persistent and evolving urban threats" are listed types and volumes of small arms carried, conventional military weaponry held, freedom struggles, insurgencies, militia and various brigades and numbers, and oppressed or angry and organised groups. Several statistical, econometric and socio-metric models are networked and co-ordinated to assess emerging levels of "threat" from these slum neighbourhoods.

Experimental human-robot devices will probably be expected to supplement the destructive capability afforded by massive ordnance, over-whelming air power and already sophisticated combat technology utilised in theatres such as Baghdad, Najaf and Fallujah which have had devastating consequences to millions of innocent civilians. While Iraq and Afghanistan offer easy testing grounds, the future water wars (or any other resource war) will be launched against impoverished urban slums on any pretext, developed via the politics of fear and in the name of national security.

While innocent civilians are increasingly the victims of modern warfare, the preservation of US military lives will become ever more significant, at the expense of the poor, the majority of whom will be children, whose futures will increasingly be sacrificed for the comfort of the rich in the west.

Those of us who will live to witness such tragedies will surely be the most unfortunate, as we will then have given up our self-appointed status as the most superior species among living beings as mere fantasy.

