



With the daily escalation of divisions between the economically weakening but militarily powerful US and the spiritually dogmatic Muslim world, it is now time for reflection.

Antagonism and conflict between diverse groups has been a historic bane of human evolution. People sincerely believed or pretended to be acting in the best interests of their group. Despite all the advances and sophistication in civilisation, highly acclaimed human rights, study of psychology, western science and technology, tribal instincts have prevailed.

Divergent attributes which mark members of a specific "out" group are used to negatively stereotype them, with general agreement of the "in" group, involving powerful emotions, attitudinal bias, strong feelings of hostility and discriminatory (racist) behaviour. Dogmatism is entrenched around a closed mindset and refusal to acknowledge an alternative belief even in the light of stark evidence to the contrary.

There is now a tendency to justify their prejudiced position by creating an argument with strong appeal to authority and righteousness, as in the wholly suicidal confrontation between North Korea and the US for example.

What the present US leaders fail to realise is that with time, they seem to resemble



EVOLVING PARADIGM CHANGES IN US FOREIGN POLICY AND THE THREAT TO A PEACEFUL WORLD

more and more, the attributes they denounce. What also occurs, often unnoticed, is that smaller out-groups close ranks, seeing themselves as one group. Militant Islamic groups and the North Korean leadership would be an example.

The public, whatever their background, attempt to make sense of the world by constructing social categories. US and many Western leaders, together with the media have influenced the public to forget external mass atrocities of the in-group while strongly retaining far less catastrophic events blamed on the out-group.

If there is a staged catastrophe and Western people die, a classic pretext for war is created. When grieving we tend to judge



Lasantha Pethiyagoda

along prejudiced and stereotyped lines, which need less effort. US leaders will cruelly be inclined to exploit this for political advantage, insensitive to the social destruction caused.

At a time when public statements from the world leaders sound ominously like those of Adolf Hitler, (for example in justifying aggression based on lies, it is refreshing to see democratic debate about the morality of the US leadership developing in an otherwise hopeless situation.

Brute force has become the substitute for the promise of 1945, and rather than "save future generations from the scourge of war", they have greatly exacerbated the phenomenon of "terrorism", which is now largely a form of war of the weak.

The devastating legacies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Vietnam, the "secret" war on Laos, Iraq and Afghanistan caused millions upon millions of deaths. The figure does

not really matter. Everyone had the right to live, as we do, in peace. Let us not forget the many, who are still alive today may never really live again, maimed and traumatised forever, reduced to hopelessness.

We cannot pretend that we did not know of their plight. But, we can admit that these wars contributed to immense suffering, with unsurpassed ferocity.

It was the aggressor's mandate to follow the impact of their policies on innocent lives. Unsurprisingly, they severely neglected this responsibility. Intimidated by the power of the moment, the public in the West closed their eyes and ears and ignored the pain of "lesser" people.

In the workplaces and public areas, there is still no expression of public empathy for the suffering, with people pretending it had nothing to do with them. Whoever among us protested on their behalf was pronounced unpatriotic, declared a social outcast, was belittled, maligned and even arrested. It was even outrageously suggested at the highest levels of government, that we supported terrorism. This was democracy in action.

The aggressors will destroy the victim's economy and continue to destroy their minds. Again and again they will withhold what is needed to make the water safe to drink and to keep the rivers clean. Echoes of the treatment of aborigines in Australia, and Indians of North America come to mind. Contaminated water was a major reason why Iraq's children died, and continue to die. We did not care; they were not our children.

There will again indeed be an axis of evil, an alliance of governments, think-tanks, media and corporations erecting a massive wall of disinformation. An imminent threat exists that only a pre-emptive strike could avert. All those who plead for peace, humanity, reason and law will be subjected

to and punished with 'shock and awe' tactics before 'shock and awe' is rained upon the innocent victims.

The attackers will pretend to care for Japanese sovereignty, yet instead they come to further weaken and risk Asian lives, not theirs, and harvest their bounties. The present agenda is to cause divisions among the Sino-Japanese ethnic groups, reminiscent of the British Raj in India, in order to justify a non-existent humanitarianism in protecting Asians from each-other.

For a long time our spin-doctors, in tandem with the media, tried to keep us hostage as we watched the tragedy of war and illegality coming closer to borders of the targeted country.

Years of hard work spent refining the technology of death and costing millions of dollars give their masters the confidence that the losses would be on Asia's side and not on ours. The media will ensure that the reports from the war front would portray the invaders as heroes and resistance as the villains, extensions of an evil dictator. While

we continue our lives in the comfort of peace, we must attempt to feel their suffering and the horror of war, despite the sanitised coverage.

Koreans must somehow retain their pride, while someday, Trump and his handlers must admit their guilt.

The degradation deeply invades morality and religion. The tragedy is that the victims are often innocent of any crime, without any doubt. They are tormented simply for living in North Korea. The inherent racism rampantly runs riot, bereft of any inhibitions necessary "back home". Human beings are reputed to be far more cruel and undisciplined than any beast.

Any deceptions practiced on the surface by the US dissipate under their global principle of applying brute force in subjugating the world in the pursuit of their obscenely naked greed for power and wealth. As long as these objectives are allowed to stampede across the globe unimpeded, the world will remain a dangerous place.

**House in 22P for Sale
Dehiwala Aththidiya**

Right next to Arpico Supermarket !

**Suitable for both residential and
commercial purposes.**

Perfect location for a housing/apartment project.

**AUD 350,000 or
exchange with a property in Australia would be considered**

**Mobile/Viber/WhatsApp +94 76 947 0 937
Mobile (Aus) +61 435 019 777**