



INTELLECTUAL UPRISING IN WEST: AN ANALYSIS

Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies

INNOVATIVE FUTURE

“The CPGS is a non-partisan leading research institute established to undertake research on
Global Security, Geopolitics, Peace building and Conflict Resolution.”
CPGS is a registered non-profit entity under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, Pakistan.

Roundtable Report

“Intellectual Uprising in West: An Analysis”

Organized by
The Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS)
Friday, 26th April 2024, CPGS, Islamabad,

Copyright © the Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS)
The views expressed in this report are those of the Participants

All rights reserved

Please do not disseminate, distribute or reproduce, in whole or in part, this report without prior consent of
CPGS

Report Compiled and Edited by
Mr. Bilal Hyder Simair



Contents

Report on the Round Table Debate by Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS)	3
Event Overview	3
Issue:	3
Debate: Intellectual Uprising in West: An Analysis	4
Key findings:	8
Art Gallery:	9

Report on the Round Table Debate by Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS) **Topic: Intellectual Uprising in West: An Analysis**

Event Overview

The Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS) in Islamabad organized a one-day roundtable debate with scholars to discuss, analyze, and generate academic research on "Intellectuals Uprising in the West: An Analysis." The event was attended by Pakistan's top research scholars and journalists.

Issue:

¹The ongoing Israel and Gaza war, which began on October 7th, has entered its sixth month. In this short time, the conflict has resulted in deaths of over 34,000 people, including children and women, injured more than 74,000 Palestinians, and displaced almost half of the population of Gaza. This worst case has awakened the entire world, particularly western countries' intellectual sector. The United States has



witnessed historical protests in universities, where students are calling for divestment from Israel, cutting relationships with any individual or entity linked to Israel, and profiting from the war. Additionally, European countries including France, Germany, Italy have also witnessed such protests since 7th of October. The protests and encampments were increasing to a level that western countries, particularly the United States if America had to send police and threaten with national guards if protests and encampments does not stop. Same situation has been witnessed in Europe where Europe's top universities have seen protests and the authorities

have called police inside campuses to disperse the protests – majority of these protesting across west are professors, faculty members and young students. So for the protests have spread to almost 50% of united states' universities abd great number of students and professors have been arrested by authorities in west, which is fueling more protests. To understand this student movement and the intellectual uprising in west, and analyze its impact, scope and possible challenges for western countries and its impact on regional and international policy of west, the Centre for Pakistan and gulf Studies arranged one day roundtable debate.

¹ Pro-Palestinian students protest on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin, Texas, the United States. [Suzanne Cordeiro/AFP]

Debate: Intellectual Uprising in West: An Analysis



The session was conducted by Mr. Bilal Hyder Simair, research officer at CPGS. In his opening remarks, CPGS's president Nasir Abbas Shirazi thanked the guests for their time and presence. He highlighted the atrocities committed by Israel and how this onslaught has created the worst humanitarian crisis. He mentioned the six-month-long oppression has spread across the world, forcing people and governments to condemn and distance themselves from Israel. He also talked about the situation in western countries, noting protests in more than 28 universities, including institutions such as Ohio, Yale, Columbia, and Harvard. He criticized the American response of arresting and cracking down on students as a way to suppress the movement.

The debate's keynote speaker, Dr. Qandeel Abbas, a professor of International Relations at Quaid Azam University Islamabad, was then called upon. Dr. Abbas explained that international relations theories such as Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism are commonly used to explain events at the international level. However, these theories have failed to explain the current situation in the region and to predict the October 7th event. He highlighted three major reasons leading to the October 7th attack:



- The message sent by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he showed a map of Greater Israel at the UN General Assembly. The map erased Palestine as a nation, indicating Israel's intention to occupy the entire territory.
- Netanyahu's remarks about major Muslim and Arab states, including Pakistan, Turkey, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia, joining the Abraham Accords. This suggests a change in the nature of the Palestine issue over time.
- The evolution of the conflict from an international issue to a "Muslim-Israel issue," then an "Arab-Israel issue," and now a " Hamas-Israel" conflict. This progression demonstrates the inadequacy of the theories in understanding the conflict or predicting its future.

Dr. Abbas also discussed the April 13th Iranian retaliatory "True Promise" response against Israel and argued that Israel's attack on Iran was a strategic mistake that elevated Iran as a regional power. This strategic error may have led Iranian leaders to revisit their nuclear strategy for safety and security amid Israel's aspirations to attack Iran.

Dr. Abbas emphasized the failure of the institution-based international system, highlighting the dual standards of the USA and the EU. He pointed out that the EU, which calls itself a champion of "freedom," bans research on the Holocaust. Meanwhile, the USA, which proclaims to be a champion of democracy, is attacking and arresting students for exercising their fundamental rights to protest and free speech.

Dr. Abbas stated that the student movement is unprecedented, except for some protests during the Vietnam War. The outcomes of these ongoing demonstrations will challenge the US and the West and may

build public support in the USA for the Palestinian cause. Additionally, these protests could impact regional and international power policies toward Palestine.

Following Dr. Abbas, Dr. Munawar, another professor of Area Studies at Quaid Azam University Islamabad, addressed the subject. He discussed the reasons behind student and social movements in the US and the trends within American society. Dr. Munawar argued that the reasons are similar to the US's efforts to colonize Cuba in the 1890s, during the Vietnam War, and during Nelson Mandela's struggle. He explained that the US public, particularly intellectuals, opposed US policies.

Dr. Munawar established four reasons for these trends:



- The US's history of such oppression witnessed by their ancestors plays a crucial role in current trends, including their past actions of opposing colonization, supporting the Irish people, and even the Black Lives Matter movement.
- US philosophy, particularly that of the founding fathers, has encouraged liberal values, placing importance on human rights, liberty, and freedom.
- The US society is a vibrant society.
- Centers of information in the USA, such as universities, endorse liberal thought and oppose war and human rights violations.

Dr. Munawar concluded that while the US public and government may differ, Israeli Zionists have been exposed to the US public's stance. Therefore, he believes it may not be long before the US withdraws its support for Israel.



Following Dr. Husain, Mr. Haitham Naser, a Palestinian-born journalist, offered his views on the contributions and role of Arab-Palestinian intellectuals in US universities over the last 40 years. He recognized the activism of Edward Said and Rashid Khalidi, particularly as faculty members at Columbia University in shaping of the thoughts of youth especially students. However, Naser believes that these movements may not lead to significant changes in western government policies toward Israel. He emphasized that the activism on the battleground in Gaza would ultimately decide the future. He added that the six-month-long war on Gaza has exposed western countries' dual standards, as the Palestinian narrative reaches ordinary people.



Harmeet Singh, a Pakistani journalist, highlighted the duplicity of media coverage in Muslim World. He stated that western countries are protesting like no one else and that Muslim states should recognize their duties toward the Muslims of Gaza. Singh noted that the reason Israel failed to eliminate Hamas and the October 7th attack was due to the coordination between groups within the Axis of Resistance. He said that despite Israel's claims, Israel has lost the war, and Israeli journalists and media have acknowledged the defeat, referencing reports by articles in the Jerusalem Post.

Dr. Qamar Cheema also spoke, noting that Americans are being questioned both domestically and internationally, particularly in Europe. He stated that US credibility is waning worldwide, as evidenced by recent developments in Europe, especially from French President Emmanuel Macron's statement urging the EU to build its own defense mechanism and not rely on US security.



- Dr. Qamar explained three frameworks that elucidate the current movements in the US:
 - Social mobilization occurs against the status quo or current government, which is not happening referring to protests only condemning Israel and not wanting change in USA.
 - New social movements are anti-war activism.
 - The political opportunity structure: Students are leveraging liberal ideology and campus resources, leading to the success of these protests.

The use of political opportunities and social media, as well as campus resources, to provide awareness and spread the anti-war narrative by students represents a significant development.



Following Dr. Cheema, Dr. Syed Ameer Abbas a known Pakistani journalist highlighted the significance of the student movements and in his concluding remarks, he thanked CPGS for hosting such thought-provoking events which help in understanding of social phenomena and contribute in policy making at national level as well as enhance knowledge about the topic.



Among attendees, Member of National Assembly of Pakistan Mr. Dawar Kundi appreciated efforts by CPGS for such a thought-provoking session and fresh updates over Palestine issue. World cannot remain aloof from the student movement in America and Europe. And we being Pakistani law makers are committed to advocate ideological grounds of the independence movement of Pakistan movement which clearly supports independent Palestine from the river to the sea. He added that we will raise the stance of founder of nation, Quaid Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in the assembly corridors, parliament, party and other relative forums. At the end, he thanked CPGS president Mr. Nasir Abbas Shirazi and said, “Pakistan will never recognize Israel”.

At the end, Q&A session started and interesting exchange of ideas took place.

Key findings:

1. Israel's war on Gaza has decreased its global acceptance, damaged its public narrative, and the anti-Israel movements and stances of public as well as governments against Israel have increased
2. The 6-month long Gaza war has awakened masses across the world, particularly in the west, making them aware of the on-ground humanitarian situation in Palestine, causing unprecedented protests at all levels and demands like distance and divestment from Israel are increasing
3. Israel's strategic mistake of coordination channels between Axis of Resistance across the region and multiple fronts Israel is fighting has slowed its pace, success, and consuming its resources
4. Western countries are facing pressured at home by their public to condemn, distance from and cut ties with Israel
5. The students' movements and realization of the strategic mistake of aligning with Israel in west, particularly in their intellectual section, has contributed towards USA and Europe's decline.
6. The realization mistake of supporting Israel and the anti israel movements will result in gradual decline of Israeli role as a state
7. The west's efforts of supporting Israel politically, military and at international institutions has made them party to the conflict and resulting in the decline of their power, eventually paving the way for a new, and necessary world order
8. Attacking Iranian embassy in Damascus, Syria, has proved to be a big mistake and handed over the established regional hegemon status to Iran
9. Israel has failed in achieving any of its set goals before the war on Gaza such as elimination of Hamas, retrieving its captured soldiers and the reason behind this is the establishment of

Art Gallery:



Session in Progress







Dr. Qandeel Abbas , professor of International Relations at QAU



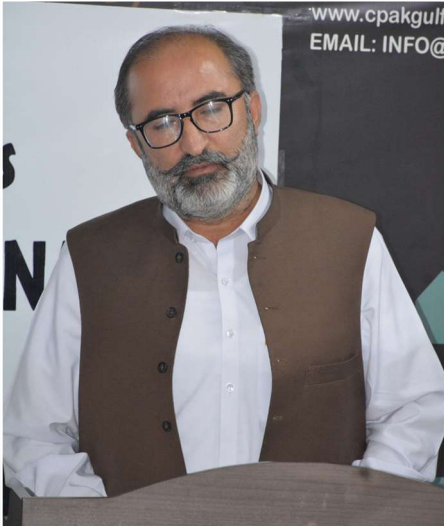
Dr. Munawar Hussain,
Professor of Area Studies
Department at QAU



Dr. Qamar Cheema, Executive
Director Sanobar Institute
Islamabad



Dr. Syed Ameer Abbas senior
anchor person and political
analyst



MNA Mr. Dawar Kundi



Mr. Nasir Abbas Shirazi,
president CPGS



Mr. Bilal Hyder Simair, Senior
Research Officer at CPGS



Mr. Haitham Nasar, a
Palestinian born Journalist



Mr. Harmeet Singh, Senior
Journalist and analyst of Axis of
Resistance



Mr. Alam, NDU Student



Indonesian Student



Afghanistan's Student



Mr. Umair, IIUI Student



Mr. Gayoor Naqvi, NUML Student



CPGS is a non-partisan leading research institute established to undertake research on Global Security, Geopolitics, Peace building and Conflict Resolution. The Centre aims to promote an alternative perspective in advancing the cause of peace through policy analysis and direct engagement with decision makers in government, civil society and academia; assess emerging trends at regional and global level and devise strategies for addressing possible future challenges. The Centre regularly conducts seminars, workshops, roundtables and conferences with dignitaries, academics and experts from every walk of life, in order to actively promote regional harmony, global peace, security and stability by making substantive intellectual, academic and diplomatic contributions. The Centre aims to harness the immense potential for increasing cooperation in the region to attain peace, security and economic development and to assess emerging trends in regional policies and devise future strategies.

