

Syrian crisis and intensifying contradictions among the imperialist powers

The developments in Syria acquired an added momentum with Russia's military action. Now the conflict of interests between the US and Russia can more glaringly be seen in Syria. At the same time, both are taking all the care to avoid "confliction", ie., the possibility of accidentally coming into direct military clash.

For long, the US and its allies had been engaged in toppling Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria. There was no method they did not try for this purpose. They propped up the opposition; unleashed a propaganda war against Assad; created several rebel groups; called their armed actions as just resistance against the hated regime and for democracy. They accused Assad's regime of using the poisonous gases on the people. They even began air raid campaign against Syria.

On the other side, the Assad's regime remained a Russia's ally. Russia was providing military aid to the Syrian Govt. While being open for a political dialogue with the US on the political changes, Russia had been opposing the US moves to unilaterally and forcibly change the regime in Syria. At one time, it even sternly warned the US against any misadventure in Syria which may compel Russia to step into the scene.

The sharpened contradictions between the US and Russia on the question of Syria gave Assad's regime a lease of life. Added to this, the IS coming up with an agenda and aggressive drive to establish a Khaliphite in vast regions from Iraq to other countries including Syria posed a new problem.

Every one knows that I.S. is a creation of US policy of using the terrorist groups as a tool to create troubles, crush the forces of opposition and pave the way for its intervention and domination in other countries. But the IS group turning into a force independent from and in conflict with the US designs became a serious problem for US too. The IS group locking its horns with the Assad regime was not a welcome news for US because the IS group too is its dangerous foe. Objectively, it frustrates the US dream of imposing its own domination over Syria. So, foiling the IS attempt to gain domination over Syria has become an essential and unavoidable part of US strategy to topple Assad's regime in Syria.

Various terrorist groups groomed and banked upon by the US in Syria proved too weak in toppling the Assad's regime. They were found collapsing and fleeing from Syria surrendering their weapons to the IS group. Though the Syrian govt., lost some areas, it retained its overall hold on the country as the Syrian Army was behind it and it enjoyed support from Russia, Iran and Hezbollah of Lebanon.

The developments in Syria moved fast since the middle of September, 2015. Russia has stepped up its military build up in Syria. It has lengthened run way near Hmaymeen military airport in Latkia province. It enlarged the Hamadiyah airport in south of Latkia. It maintains a naval facility in Tartas province with 500-strong naval infantry force stationed at the Latkia air field. Sergei Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Minister declared that the military supplies to Syrian govt., will continue and they would be inevitably accompanied by Russia's specialists. Thus after Afghanistan in 1979, this was Russia's first major deployment of its expeditionary force in another country.

Russia's war planes carried out strikes in three Syrian provinces along with Syrian regime's air craft's. On Sept' 29,2015 the Russian President Vladimir Putin made it clear that Russia would hunt down IS militants before they target Russia.

Hundreds of Iranian troops arrived in Syria and joined the Syrian govt. forces. So also the Lebanon's Hezbollah forces began a major ground offensive against the IS forces under the protection of Russian air strikes.

Thus Russia has chosen an opportune time for its military action and acted in a determined manner to realise its aim.

The US and its allies found themselves in a precarious position. They can neither welcome the Russia's action nor strongly condemn it. The logic of imperialist right to invade, interfere and trample

the rights of other countries being invoked by the US and other imperialist powers can also be invoked by Russia to justify its action. In Syria, while the US is engaged in toppling game because the regime here is not liked by it, the Russia has militarily intervened in Syria to defend its ally from the IS and other militant outfits.

Here, the arguments and counter-arguments advanced by Russia and US to justify their own positions on the question of Syria are quite interesting.

In essence they went like this:

Addressing the 70th Session of General Assembly of the UN, Putin said: It would be a disastrous error not to support Assad. It is an enormous mistake not to co-operate with the Syrian group which is fighting the terrorists face to face.

Obama said: Assad-a child-like tyrant cannot be supported rather than a bulwark against Jihadist extremism, Assad drives Syrians into the arms of such groups.

Putin said: The US military intervention in Iraq and Libya which unleashed chaos in West Asia was responsible for the rise of violent extremism.

The IS group sprang up out of the chaos left behind after US-backed forces ousted Saddam Hussein from Iraq and Muammar Gadhafi of Libya. After the end of cold war, the West emerged as a new "centre of domination" of the world and arrogantly took it upon itself to resolve conflicts through force. This power led to the emergence of areas of anarchy in West Asia with extremists and terrorists. Turkey and Egypt to solve the Syrian crisis. Conspicuously, this group has excluded Britain and France.

US actually saw and dealt the Syrian question as the affair of US and its allies. In the view of US, the solution for Syrian crisis means pulling down Assad from power.

Russia, Iran and other friends of Syrian Govt, are already working to find a 'political solution' for Syrian crisis. They are trying to convince Assad to prepare himself for a compromise with the Syrian opposition for the sake of his country and his people.

US maintain that Assad must go. It is, of course, ready to negotiate the date and time for it. From all this, we can draw a few conclusions:

1. The Syrian crisis reveals the intensification of contradictions among the imperialist powers.

Through its determined military action, Russia has declared that it can neither be ignored nor taken for granted while dealing with the problems of countries in the world. It has political will and military strength to intervene and contend for a share of influence and role in deciding the affairs in the world in accordance with its own strength.

2. The developments in Syria are a warning to the US that its road for world hegemony is not smooth. It is going to face more difficulties and challenges in the days to come.

3. It is not the US or Russia which can or must decide what kind of rule or political system Syrian people must have. The people of Syria are now caught between two giants who are contending for their own influence or domination. These giants may 'settle' the question either by one side emerging dominant for a while or by striking a deal of compromise and or by pushing Syria into a deeper and inextricable quagmire of conflict or crisis to keep the region as a playground for their politics of domination. In any case, it will be the interests of Syrian people which suffer most.

All these years and though out the conflict, lakhs of Syrian people lost their lives, freedoms and peace. The poor and jobless millions were forced to migrate to other countries. The people in Syria are leading a most wretched and insecure life.

4. A lasting solution can be found only when the masses of workers, toiling and oppressed people in Syria, unite cutting across sunni-Shia and other divisions and take the situation into their own hands. They must not allow the imperialists, their collaborators and fanatical religious, terrorist groups to decide their fate. They must advance the struggle for a genuine democratic system and towards socialism. Forging of a strong and unbreakable alliance and solidarity between the people of Syria and the people of other West Asian countries against imperialism will greatly strengthen the struggle of Syrian people.
