

The Meaning of Chilcot Commission Report

The UK's Iraq war enquiry commission, known as Chilcot Commission, has, at last, come out with its report on July 6th, 2016 after seven years.

The Commission was asked to probe 1. Was it right and necessary to invade Iraq in March 2003? 2. Whether the UK could and should have been better prepared? It is needless to say that these terms of reference were framed within the framework of imperialist policy. The commissions conclusions too are accordingly given.

In essence, they said: 1. in September 2002, Mr. Tony Blair, the then British Prime Minister, has presented the assessment to the Parliament on the security threat posed by the Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction "with certainty that was not justified". 2. Mr. Blair underestimated the outcome of invasion of Iraq "despite explicit warnings". 3. The planning of moves after Saddam Hussein was "wholly inadequate" and the British government has "failed to realize its stated objectives". These conclusions too were guided by the interests of imperialists in general and the British imperialism in particular.

The report has thrown light on some known facts too. Mr. Tony Blair, who acted like a tail of US imperialism, had shown unusual enthusiasm and hurry to pull down Saddam Hussein from power and invade Iraq. Right in July 2002, he had sent a private memo to the US president promising him, "I will be with you for whatever". He kept this memo secret and did not reveal even to his cabinet colleagues and top officials. In September 2002, he told the British Parliament that the reports from the intelligence sources (which he knew were fabricated and which were also to be later) say that Iraq under Saddam Hussein possessed the weapons of mass destruction and there was an imminent danger of them being used. Even after the publication of the Chilcot report, Blair maintains that whatever he had done at that time was done in good faith and in the best interests of Britain, as he thought and therefore, there is nothing for him to apologise.

What happened in Iraq is known to the entire world. In March 2003, the US, supported by the British imperialism, invaded Iraq. The imperialist allegation of Iraq possessing WMD was proved to be a big lie just on the morrow of invasion. The imperialist had brutally and illegally hanged Saddam Hussein, the president of Iraq, who heroically challenged the mighty US hegemonic power, by enacting an illegal, farcical drama of trial. The entire Iraq was reduced into a vast burial ground. A puppet regime was installed. By 2009, when Britain has withdrawn its troops from Iraq, the invading imperialist forces had butchered more than 1,50,000 Iraqi people and displaced several millions. It continued later.

The question the people of Iraq, of a country that was subjected to similar fate and the entire people of the world asked and go on asking again and again is: What right the imperialists have to violate and trample the right of countries to sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, butcher the people who refuse to bow down before them and impose their authority and rule over them? What is the principle that justifies the 'right' of imperialist powers to produce, stockpile and use most destructive weapons that are capable of reducing the entire world into ashes, but prohibit other countries from having weapons for self defence and punish the countries and people for the alleged and cooked up charges that they are in possession of so called weapons of mass destruction? Had not the invasion and continued occupation of Iraq by the US and other imperialist powers even after the exposure of the allegation of Iraq possessing the so called weapons of mass destruction as a lame alibi proved their real aim was nothing but a forcible and illegal grabbing and control of Iraq's resources and political life? Chilcot commission was not meant to probe into the real causes of invasion of Iraq, but to look into how best the imperialist ambitions or designs could have been realized in the given situation.

The Chilcot Commission was constituted in 2009 when Gordon Brown assumed the prime ministership in Britain. Then, the contradictions among the British ruling classes had assumed an intensified form,

including on the question of Britain's role in Iraq war. The invading imperialist forces had encountered unexpectedly strong resistance from people in Iraq. There had come up a solidarity and protest sufficiently strong and wide in the Middle East and the world, including in the US and Britain. The realization among the British people that they were needlessly dragged into an unjust war and they were made to pay heavily in terms of lives as well as economically for it was growing and manifesting in ever growing protest movement against the Govt. In the face of this situation, the British ruling classes found Chilcot Commission as a means to overcome the political crisis, pursue their politics of power struggle and lull and divert the people's protest against the policy of imperialist war into safe channels.

In the last few years, the US imperialists are worried by one more problem. By an excessive use of their military strength, they could succeed in some cases in pushing down or destabilizing or creating crisis for the regimes as is the case with Iraq, Afghanistan, Lybia and Syria, etc. But, in the conditions of continuing resistance from people, intensifying contradictions and contentions among the imperialist powers and the activities of ISIS and other forces which have gone out of their control or working for cross purposes are making it more difficult to ensure stability and peace for their puppet regimes and realize their aims.

The British people must not be carried away by the diversionist tactics of their imperialist rulers and must carry forward the struggle against imperialism and for a genuine and lasting peace in the world.
