

US – IN ITS PATH OF WORLD HEGEMONY

The US President Donald Trump's announcement of his decision to pull out the US troops from Syria has created some confusions, apprehensions and dissensions among the ruling circles in US and criticisms from the US allies like France and Britain. The US President also announced to withdraw half of US troops from Afghanistan.

The US Defense Secretary General Jim Mattis and the US Special envoy to the anti-Islamic State Coalition Brett Mc Gurk have resigned in protest against the decision. Trump's fellow Republicans too have strongly criticized Trump and complained that Russia and Iran may take advantage of it. The French President Macron expressed deep regret at Trump's decision and complained that US was showing a lack of reliability towards its allies. Going out of the way, he paid tribute to General Mattis for his 'bold' resignation.

Trump claimed that US troops were no longer needed in Syria as the US had defeated the Islamic State.

One more interesting statement also came in this context. Addressing a group of Army men in Iraq on Dec 25th, 2018, Trump said: "The US cannot continue to be the policeman of the world. It is not fair when the burden is all on us, the US." "We don't want to be taken advantage of any more by the Countries that use our incredible military to protect them. They don't pay for it and they are going to have to."

A superficial reading of these statements may lead one to conclude that the US leadership is proposing to abandon its thrust for world hegemony because, firstly, they are disappointed by not so commendable results from this policy, and, secondly, they are very much frustrated by the failure of the allies in sharing the burden of imperialist actions in the world. But a deep study of realities will make one realize that these statements are utterly false and misleading.

The imperialists are imperialists. They pursue the tactics based on their assessment of concrete situations and make the necessary changes in them in the light of changes in the situations and thus seek to achieve better results in their aims.

In the immediate post-September 11 episode, the US President George W. Bush had resorted to offensive policy to assert the US as a world hegemonic power. The US had unleashed the wars of invasion against Afghanistan and Iraq under the banner of global war against terrorism. Bush declared that the US has every right to unleash a war against any country if it is found or felt that the US interests are threatened by a country or a force it shelters. Virtually, it was an open declaration of war on the world people.

Much water had flown in the Ganges in the last nearly two decades' time. The US led invading forces could overwhelm Taliban militarily, occupy Afghanistan and install a puppet regime there. But the Afghan people led by Taliban rose in powerful armed resistance against the US and the regime protected by it. Now, two regimes – one protected by the US and other led by Taliban- had come to stay in Afghanistan with Taliban led by forces continuously expanding their areas of operation and control. Saddam Hussein had died a heroic death and a puppet regime was installed in Iraq. But the US had encountered powerful resistance and opposition from the Iraq people.

Decades of Wars had cost the US much and further intensified the economic crisis in US. Installing and managing a puppet regime in Iraq was not an easy walk for US. Because, the US had to depend in Iraq on the political forces which are under a great influence of Iran. Iran was and continues to be at loggerheads with the US. The US was compelled to give a prominent place to the pro-Iran forces in the regime. In the later period, the ISIS – a creation of US itself – came to the fore as a problem as it sought to take control of Iraq. The US had to deal with it. So from the beginning, the US attempts to dominate Iraq were riddled with endless crises and problems. In Syria, the problem arose only because US wanted to install a regime of its own choice by overthrowing the Syrian President Bashar al – Assad who is popular and well rooted among the people. It used every foul method including armed attacks to realize its aim. Syrian President's refusal to bow down to US and its allies and his association with Russia and Iran are the causes of US ire against him.

The imperialist powers of Europe like France and Britain were tailing behind all US actions in the world. However, they have grown more assertive in the course of time. The US being entangled in ever intensifying competitions and contradictions with Russia, China and Iran had boosted their courage. While striving for a better share in the loot of world resources, they are trying to escape from the burdens of US initiated or led armed actions in the world. They began a search for new friends and combinations in an attempt to improve their own positions in the competition.

Rather than as a move to relinquish the US role as a leading world power, we can see Trump's talk about "America First" more as an attempt to assert the primacy of US interests and the talk like, "US

cannot continue to be a policeman of the world” can be seen essentially as an attempt to tell to its allies to take the US lead unwaveringly in the world.

At a time when Trump was talking about the withdrawal of troops from Syria, the White House spokesperson Sara Sanders clarified: “The victories over ISIS in Syria don’t signal the end of the Global Coalition or its campaign. We have started returning US troops as we transition to the next phase of this campaign.” One US official told that America had consulted its partners and allies on the decision.

It must be noted that a “complete withdrawal of US troops from Syria would still leave a sizeable US military presence in the region, including about 5,200 troops across the border in Syria. Much of the campaign in Syria earlier has been waged by war planes flying out of Qatar and other locations in West Asia.

Addressing the US troops in Iraq on Dec 25, 2018 Trump said: “If we see something happening with ISIS that we don’t like, we can hit them so fast and so hard they really won’t know what the hell happened.”

US And Iraq

Commenting on the proposed withdrawal of US troops from Syria, the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said: “It in no way changes anything that this administration is working alongside Israel.” “The counter ISIS campaign continues, our efforts to counter Iranian aggression continue and our commitment to the Middle East stability and the protection of Israel continues in the same way it did before that decision was made”.

Trump made it clear that US has no intention to withdraw troops from Iraq. This could be used as a future base “if we wanted to do something in Syria.” According to an Iraqi political analyst Hisham – Hashmi, “Iraq is important because of its strategic location. The presence of US troops reassures both Jordan and Saudi Arabia and strike a balance between the Khurds and Turkey and Turkish, Iranian and Iraqi triangle.” It also aids “Israel’s desire to block Tehran – Beirut route and offset Iran’s strengthening presence in the region.”

Thus the withdrawal of US troops from Syria is a small, temporary re-adjustment being made in the deployment of forces with an aim of further strengthening the striking power of the US forces.

At the same time the US drive for domination is also facing many hurdles and problem.

At the end of nearly two decades long war against the Afghan people, the US is compelled to try for a negotiated settlement with Taliban, without, of course, abandoning the method of force. The US had opened the dialogue with North Korea, though it once threatened to blow up, with an intention to disarm it while keeping itself fully armed. However, the alertness of Korean people and their leadership are making this dream difficult to realize.

The US is pursuing with all seriousness its strategy of imposing its domination over the Asia, Asia – Pacific region. But it is faced with formidable foes in the region and the politics of domination are facing an ever growing opposition among the people of the region.

US hopes to use Iraq as its potential military base to push through its hegemonic policies in the Middle East. But, right in Iraq itself, the US is faced with ever growing opposition. The demands among the people as well as political forces inside the Iraq parliament for an immediate and total withdrawal of US troops from Iraq are growing strong. The opposition to the use of Iraq as a launching pad for US attacks against the countries and forces opposed to the politics of domination are growing strong.

The US still maintains nearly 800 bases in more than 70 countries and territories. US has no intention to abandon them. It continues to possess most sophisticated Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and aspire for world hegemony. The US sits on the mountains of these weapons not for a fun, but to use them to frighten and force the world people to accept the US hegemony.

So, no one should be swept away by the claims, pretences and assurances of imperialist powers. All peace loving forces and people must demand the imperialist powers in general and the US in particular to immediately : 1) stop the production and destroy all types of WMD; 2) Dismantle all their military bases on land, sea and outer space; 3) withdraw all troops from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, South Korea, Japan, Middle East and other countries; 4) Abandon Military Alliances – global, regional and bilateral; 5) stop all acts of threats, bullying, and domination and intervention into the affairs of other countries; 6) respect the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of countries and the principle of equality in the relations between the countries.
