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Introduction

In this journal CSRS's weekly analysis board analyzed the increasing role of foreigners in Afghan election process, mediation of John Kerry and the rumors about changing the governmental system. There is also analysis about and also about the Cold War in Middle East.

- * For mediation between the two presidential elections candidates after dispute over the results U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to Kabul and resolved that all the votes must be audited and the result must be acceptable for both of the candidates and finally a government of national unity must be formed. After mediation of John Kerry speculated that a coalition government is going to be formed. It seems that the matter is not the audit of all votes, but is the deal between two candidates behind the scene.
- * The recent events and changes in the Middle East attracted global attention. The crisis in Egypt, war in Syria and Iraq and some other major changes which are due to the cold war in Middle East makes it clear that region is expecting some more changes.

John Kerry mediation and rumors of change in government system



After the announcement of the preliminary results of presidential election, the role of foreigner's increased gradually in the election process and finally U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry with his travel to Kabul ended the bargaining of the both candidates. After the mediation of John Kerry speculations raised that behind the scene an understanding over the change of the current governmental system and a collation government has taken place which caused diverse reactions.

What is the root cause of such rumors and also if they are true what would be the results? The influence and interference of foreigner's especially the United States of America in election process are the issues analyzed here in this analysis:

Foreign intervention in election a big challenge for Afghanistan

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry mediated in 2009 election between Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah. Abdullah Abdullah was expecting the mediation of John Kerry again and therefore did not accept any mediation by Afghans or through legal channels. It seems that a day after announcement of preliminary results threatening by announcing parallel government was from the fear of not implementing the commitments as happened in 2009 given to Abdullah Abdullah.

The mediation and resolving all the problems by John Kerry was surprising, but later the politicians and different parts had some statements or reports published which caused new concerns and reactions of the people.

Apparently, the audit of all ballots, accepting the final result by both candidates, and agreeing on a national unity government were the points on which the agreement is reached. But since one of the candidates did not see himself as winner of the election, he rejected all types of the technical results, and with fulfilling the first condition he was giving another condition, so it did not seemed that the main issue is of recounting and audit of the votes but the main issue is agreement on distribution of the power in the coming government.

United States managed the electoral parties as to have more chance of influence and it seems that threatening by a parallel government from one of the candidates was also due to U.S. interference, otherwise any kind of instability and crisis in Afghanistan is not in its favor.

United States through tactful management of election laid foundation of a government of the coming five years which would be indebted to U.S. and world community.

After mediation of John Kerry, reports about a supposed coup before his arrival to Kabul were for justifying the ashamed intervention of U.S. in a national democratic process.

However, the role of United States in Afghan election is considered as an attempt for isolation of Hamid Karzai in this process, because Karzai is still opponent of changing the governmental system, signing the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) or at all with a comprehensive role of U.S. in the politics of Afghanistan and their interventions.

On the other hand from the statements of the President we can see that the mediation of United States in the election disagreements was not the demand of Afghanistan and U.S. according to their plan sent John Kerry to Kabul for mediation between two candidates.

John Kerry mediation and efforts to change the government system

Some western media published reports about an agreement over the change in governmental system in Afghanistan, something that Abdullah Abdullah had already planned to implement after his success in election. According to these reports, however this concept is in its initial stages, but at the big picture both of the candidates have agreed to create a new position of prime minister.

Since United States supported the presidential system in last one decade, but now it seems that they had some attempts of changing the governmental system and are not satisfied with the current type of government in Afghanistan. The hands used for defamation of electoral process might be those who were paving the way for implementing other political concepts.

If the speculations about an agreement over changing the current governmental system and giving the position of prime minister to losing candidate is even not serious. But as Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai did not select someone from Tajik tribe in his team and lately promised with Ahmad Zia Massoud that he would be appointed as Prime Minister all shows that the plan for changing the system existed from the beginning.

However, the electoral team of Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai rejected such rumors and President Karzai also denounced the change in governmental system, but it seems that the reports of some U.S. media closed to White House can be an attempt to pave way and make mentality for accepting such a change. However Abdullah Abdullah team spreads such speculation for empowering their part in the coming government.

Since change in the governmental system need the change in constitution, another attempt for justifying the general public has been done, that is the promise of an executive post with Ahmad Zia Massoud, which might be upgraded to Prime Minister after change in the constitution.

Challenging process of giving role to losing candidate

Since the losing electoral team seems satisfied with mediation of John Kerry, it shows that a deal over power-sharing has been reached. After defamation of electoral process and other challenges that exist the winner team is also to accept the deal as the last resort and pave way to form a weak government.

However the mediation of the foreigners was as the last option and Hamid Karzai who initially opposed such interference finally accepted the mediation of UNAMA and even the mediation of John Kerry, but it seems that it brought the process to another challenging era.

There are some important points regarding power-sharing under the name of national unity government. First, recount of all votes cast the result of which will be accepted by both candidates and the winning candidate will become the legitimate President of the country forming a new government according to his own platform. Here, what is the meaning of including losing candidate as agreed in the deal?

If an agreement over distribution of positions is already reached, it is disrespect for the votes cast by Afghan people. Although forming a new government only from winning team and entirely excluding losing side from political arena is one of the weaknesses of the government. The government should be careful with regards to taking the national combination into account, but still forming government based on deals is a major plot against Afghans.

Saudi-Iran-Turkey; the players of Cold War in Middle East



Middle East is the pivot of several problems after the World War I, and during the Cold War (1945-1991) or after this era; but recently lots of new events have happened, like the bloody and protracted civil war in Syria, overthrowing of Morsi's government in Egypt, on-going violence in Iraq and the catastrophe of Palestine.

The latest events and the series of events under the name of Arabic spring, deeply affected the region and since some epochal revolutions are expected.

The background of Middle East Cold War

After Islamic revolution of Iran in 1979, beside the world ideological Cold War, the regional religious Cold War in Asia also started emerging. This Cold war emerged from the very beginning as proxy war. The Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988) disputed the region in two Sunni and Shiite blocs, and Syria's civil war and recent Sunnis insurgence of Iraq are the latest example of such confrontations.

At the beginning of Cold War between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Iran entered to a bloody conflict with Iraq. Also Saudi and the Egypt under the leadership of Hosni Mubarak and Iran started supporting Hezbollah of Lebanon and Hafez al-Assad in Syria.

Saudi was supporting the United States of America during the Cold War, so attempted to use the experiences of United States and started using Truman *Doctrine model*, a policy by United States President Harry S. Truman to stop Soviet expansion during the Cold War, against Iran in order to control this country. Saudi Arabia therefore started partnership with its long-term strategic ally Pakistan and supported Afghan Mujahidin who were deeply dependent on Saudi Aid for their success.

This Cold War affected the Afghan civil war and short after the Taliban emerged in the power struggle arena, who opposed with Iran from very beginning; but oppositely Saudi supported them. This way this Cold War shifted to Afghanistan as well and affected politics in Afghanistan.

Syria and Iraq from cold to the warm war

In Middle East when The Arab Spring uprisings began from Tunisia, on the one hand caused hopes for securing freedoms, but on the other hand raised concerns with authoritarian regimes, because it overthrew Qaddafi in Libya and Hosni Mubarak in Egypt. At the same time in Syria the nation started demonstration against the monarchy of Bashar al-Assad, and this war is going on from 2011 till now, and Saudi and Iran both are involved in this war.

Also in Iraq, after the withdrawal of US troops the security situation deteriorated and newly the ISIS (Islamic State) group has emerged both in Iraq and Syria and seriously caused concerns of the regional governments. This group of Sunni militants is well armed and equipped and combating Iraqi government of Nouri al-Maliki who isolated the Sunni population from the power arena.

Since the separation of Kurdistan from Iraq has also recently came to dialogues, the ISIS caused serious concerns with Iran, and there are speculations that Iran directly interrupted in the favor of Iraqi government; while Saudi Arabia has already warned the Iran, that interruption in Iraq's internal affairs will have bad results for Iran.

The leader of Egypt's Coup, new friend of Saudi

King Abdullah ibn Abdilaziz of Saudi Arabia and his friends (Kuwait and UAE) cracked down on their historical friends and soft power (Islamic movements) in Egypt. The elected president of Egypt was overthrown in a coup by Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and treated the Muslim Brotherhood very badly.

Soon after the establishment of new government in Egypt after the coup Saudi considered it as a legal government and King Abdullah recently visited Egypt for the first time after fall of Hosni Mubarak regime. This visit was also the first visit of a foreign official to Egypt.

King Abdullah committed billions of dollars in assistance with Abdel Fattah el-Sisi during the coup in Egypt, and committed to call a conference for economic development of Egypt in the region which will commit \$20 billion. At all we can say that the close relations between Saudi Arabia and the new Egyptian government show the new direction of their friendship.

Falling of Hosni Mubarak regime in the result of widespread demonstration was good news for Iran and congratulated Mohammad Morsi for his presidency. However Morsi wanted equal relation with Riyadh and Tehran; but Saudi considered it as losing the Egypt of Anwar El Sadat and Hosni Mubarak in hands of their rivals, therefore started attempts to have it back.

The competition between Saudi and Turkey for leading Sunni World

Appointment of Ahmet Davutoğlu as foreign minister of Turkey brought about a change in the modern diplomacy of Turkey. He wrote a book about the strategic depth when he was professor of the university a few years back. In his book Davutoğlu has advised Turkish foreign relations experts to look for their strategic depth which he considers historical depth continued from their geostrategic location and Ottoman Caliphate.

After 2004, appointment of Davutoğlu as the foreign minister and closing of the doors of the European Union in the face of Turkey made them to pursue the very same philosophy. According to this philosophy the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, give hand to the Saudi's previous friends (Islamic movements) while King Abdullah of Saudi was no longer supporting them.

Turkey wants democracy in the Middle East; but Saudi's king dynasty consider it as a danger to their rule. Turkey was hopeful for The Arab Spring but Saudi interfered in Yemen, Bahrain and Egypt in favor of their interests.

The power of this Cold War between Saudi and Turkey can be seen clearly in the statements of Erdoğan during the el-Sisi coup to his nation about King Abdullah of Saudi.

The Conclusion

Since the Cold War between Iran and Saudi in the Middle East is the war between Sunni and Shiite; Saudi does not want the soft power of Iran to be empowered in the Middle East and Iran also want to weaken the influence of Saudi in the region.

On the other hand another cold war is going on between Turkey and Saudi Arabia over the leadership of the Islamic world especially in the Middle East. Saudi uses the religion in this confrontation; but Turkey uses their economic growth and other soft powers.

Also the relations between Turkey and Iran are also not fair in most circumstances, and a cold war is going on between them to an extent; but the latest events in Middle East which started from The Arab Spring keep the wars warm and it becomes more complicated day by day.

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