Israel Is Not a Sole Palestinian Problem: An Ominous Regional Challenge

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February 22, 2009

Arabs are endowed with a short, rather a very selective memory that's rendered even further selective with controlled media and over indulgence in consumerism and the false security of often overwhelming sense of parochial and tribal affiliation.

The recent Israeli war of Genocide on Gaza, with the undeterred brandishing and deployment of all kinds of arsenal, should, foremost to the Arabs of narrow and very selective memory, open their eyes to the imminent security, even existential challenge facing them all. Only a fool would be blinded to this ominous and imminent danger.

However, more realistically, as a deep chasm, a wide divergence separates the Arabs according to their regional and sub-cultural affiliations, the Israeli imminent security and existential challenge concerns them all, foremost, the Arab countries of the Levant and Egypt.

Arab Gulf States, the richest and possessors of the determinant political lever of the strategic commodity of oil, are on a different mindset and nearly different set of priorities. The dominant tribal culture of these countries determines their strategic outlook in a more paternalistic fashion that is more adept to conforming to Chieftains' visions and set of commands. The political culture of such states render them less prone to initiatives that predicate on liberal tendencies that invite critical thought and proclivity to harboring ambitions of representative models of self-governance.

Arab Gulf States that are endowed with oil as a powerful strategic economic weapon are capable, once prudently and intelligently deploy that scarce resource, of profoundly addressing many of the endemic security challenges facing the Middle East at large, foremost and a priori, the Zionist and Israeli challenge. Given the dominant mindset and the dominance of religion as the foremost single popular motivator, Arab Gulf states' sense of priority with regard to the Israeli security and existential challenge is not necessarily
perfectly aligned with that perceived by the countries of the Levant and of Egypt as being most immediate.

The countries of the Levant and Egypt are living the paradox of skewed priorities with social and economic developments prevailing over the more despondent and more imminent Israeli and Zionist security and existential challenge. Instead of tiny Lebanon and tiny Jordan brandishing the slogans of sovereignty, of a Lebanon First or a Jordan First, in the desperate hope that such insulating distinction would act as a deterrent to forestall Israel’s sinister expansionist and hegemonic schemes, much in the tradition of the Ostrich seeking the false comfort of a make believe, taking count of the strategic realities, balance of power imbalances and the frightening military challenge that unruly Zionist Spartan Israel poses ought to figure as the first priority to all the Levant countries and Egypt. This is especially with extreme hardliners in Israel been passed the mantle from the more moderate centralists who recently finished delivering the Israeli brand of war on Gaza.

As the international law and the supposed superpowers’ guardians of its application are found derelict in enforcing the law, Israel, as one of the most formidable military forces in the World at large, is left unleashed and capable of dealing, at will, any of the surrounding countries pre-emptive military strikes without consideration of recognized Sovereignty and in total oblivion to the international law. The continued hiding of the head in the sands of the countries of the Levant and Egypt of the ominous and ever imminent Israeli threat will, as evidenced by the day, only cause the security problem and the Israeli security challenge to further snowball, to further become the more ominous and the more imminent.

Claims of a declared one-sided neutrality, as the Lebanese 14th of March movement recently articulated in the words of Amin Jumail, one of its leaders, while can be most welcomed if Israel and superpowers of the world can respect and guarantee its enforceability, Realpolitik suggests otherwise. As the Lebanese have experienced and learned the hard way over the years, only a viable defense strategy can check Israel’s incursions and Israel’s expansionist ambitions and unsatiating appetite for the grabbing of land and water resources.

Only revival of a real regional Defense Pact, and mobilization of the attendant resources to guarantee its effectiveness, is the sole practical
deterrence in the face of a rampant armed to the teeth expansionist Zionist Israel that's intent on treating and behaving with its surroundings as tough neighborhoods that can only be cajoled by force and humiliating vanquish. Ironically, the exact Apartheid loaded terminology, “Tough Neighborhood,” was coined by the extreme right new Israeli Prime Minister designate, Benjamin Netanyahu, who is fond of continuously eliciting that notion that is suggestive of belligerence and the Ghetto siege mentality.

Israel ceased for long to being a sole Palestinian issue as many complacent Arab regimes wish to think and propagate in justification to their dereliction of duty and the facing up to the real and most demanding strategic challenge of the Zionist and Israeli threat. Israel is foremost an Egyptian and countries of the Levant, together, Ensembles, strategic challenge that none of these sovereign member states can afford the luxury much longer to continue to sweep under the carpet and assign, conveniently, to a battered and lone party, the Occupied Palestinians, the sole duty to face up to in the wishful thinking that the Israel problem could vanish

While the sovereignty of member states of the Levant and Egypt is a cherishable and is the rightful aspirations of the constituents of these countries to uphold, neither the Lebanon First, nor the Jordan and/or Egypt First doctrines would dissipate the ever growing real security and military threat, the Sword of Damocles, that a rampant militant Israel poses to each and every one of these countries. Sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the surrounding Levant will remain a void euphemistic illusion in the absence of guarantees of enforceability of the international law.