DEPARTMENT OF WEST ASIAN STUDIES
AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES
FACULTY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY ALIGARH

ORGANISING

TWO DAYS NATIONAL SEMINAR ON

“Emerging Shapes and Contours of West Asia and North Africa in the Realm of New World Order”

Date: 01-02 November, 2017

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Date for submission of Abstract : 30th September 2017
Last Date for submission of full paper : 15th October 2017
Submission through Email: saimakhateeb210@gmail.com

Registration Fees: 1200 INR

Registration fees are to be deposited in the Office of Chairman

CONTACT US

CONVENER
Prof. Jawaid Iqbal
Dept of West Asian Studies
Mob.: +91 9410209719
Email: jiqbal1234@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN
Prof. Fazal Mahmood
Dept of West Asian Studies & North African Studies

Registration Form Available at www.amu.ac.in/deptarment page
Concept Note

“Emerging Shapes & Contours of West Asia and North Africa in the Realm of New World Order

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent implosion of the Soviet Union rang with proclamation of a New World Order. The end of the Cold War seemed to herald an apparently drastic change – the dawning of a new era in which peace & security amongst nations would be the guiding moral in international politics. The old hostilities and rivalries which had pitted the two great super powers against each other appeared finally to be at an end. Yet with its first great challenges, this new era proved to be little different from those which had come before it. The NWO proclaimed by George Bush on the eve of the Allied Coalition’s assault on Kuwait & Iraq, left no mysteries as to its meaning in the immediate aftermath of the Gulf War slaughter. As the guns of the Allied Coalition fell silent more than 1,50000 Iraqi soldiers lay dead. The justifications for a war proclaimed in the name of democracy and commitment to the protection of international law were little more than a hollow façade, as oil interests, reaching into the hundreds of billions of dollars, were secured and a greater dominance and presence in the West Asian region guaranteed for the US. More significant for allied interests, initial reconstruction and rebuilding contracts for the US companies exceeded 200 plus billion dollars in the Gulf countries. Hegemony & great power interests continued to display their relevance in international affairs, counteracting those who asserted the preposterous nation of the “end of history”.

Exercising hegemonic strategy is always a strong impulse for a strong country like the US. The more the US power is approaching the peak, the stronger its hegemonic impulse to build an ‘ideal world’ has become. For forty five years after the end of the World War II the US basically followed the strategy of balance of power that aimed at maintaining the then status quo. With the end of the Cold War the US became the only Super Power in the world. The inflated national strength has given rise to its imperial ambition to seek world dominance and the region that has come to witness this unbridled display of American might is West Asia. The 9/11 incident made the US to identify terrorism as its biggest threat and West Asia as its main battlefield. For the US to eradicate terrorism, it is a must to comprehensively transform West Asia. Therefore, it has made up its mind to overturn the regional order in West Asia, interfere in West Asian internal affairs in an all round way so as to thoroughly adjust the order in West Asia. This is a typical hegemonic strategy, a kind of aggressive, interventionist and unilateral transforming strategy.

The American hegemonic strategy in West Asia in the new era includes two major components. First launching wars to establish Pro-American regimes and then set up regional hegemony. Second, promoting democracy and extending the US influence from diplomatic affairs to domestic affairs. The US militarist strategy has however backfired in many ways. The 2003 American invasion of Iraq has got the US deeply mired in the war. America intended
to eradicate terrorism and establish democratic regime in Iraq through the Iraq War, but the results were counterproductive. The war on terrorism has dragged Iraq into unprecedented turbulence and turned it into a training camp and export base for international terrorism. The latest manifestation of this is the ISIS which is threatening the security and stability of entire West Asia. As the same time the US push for democratization has stirred up long existing contradictions deeply rooted among Iraqi Shiites, Sunnis & Kurds. In fact the US style democratic transformation has only stirred up the long entrenched internal contradictions in almost every country in West Asia. One of the consequences of the churnings was the Arab Spring which started in Tunisia and quickly spread to Egypt, Yemen, Libya, Bahrain etc. It has added uncertainties to the future of the region already in turmoil. The war has also broken the fragile power balance in West Asia and led to the rise of America’s implacable enemy-Iran as a regional power. At the same time it has given opportunities to the rise of Islamic radical organizations in Palestine, Syria, Egypt and elsewhere. It is fair to say that the current fluid situation in West Asia is a structural crisis which can hardly be shaken off in short term through self adjustment.

With the emergence of the NWO, each nation had to adjust to this new reality by bringing about suitable changes in its foreign policy both at the broader as well as specific sectoral levels. India was no exception to this. This seminar will also dwell upon the changes that India has effected with regard to its West Asia Policy in the NWO. While during the Cold War period India’s West Asia policy was articulated more in political, ideological and moral terms, in the post Cold War period, economic, energy and security related issues have taken precedence over moral and ideological considerations. In the NWO, Israel, Iran and Saudi Arabia constitute the core of India’s West Asia policy: the rest including Egypt and the non state entity PNA, operate at the periphery towards which India follows a policy of tokenism.

Sub-Themes:

1. Arab Spring: Causes & Consequences
2. Civil War in Syria and Libya
3. Emergence of ISIL and other Terror organizations
4. The war in Yemen
5. The Challenges before Saudi Arabia
6. Counter revolution in Egypt
7. Falling Global Oil prices and its impact on OAPC
8. Occupation and unrest in west Bank in Gaza
9. Civil Society in West Asia and North Africa
10. Religion and Globalization
11. India and the WANA Region
12. Reordering of the WANA Region and any other sub theme relevant to the seminar
Department Of West Asian Studies and North African Studies
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh

Two Days National seminar

On

“Emerging shapes and Contours of West Asia and North Africa in the Realm of New World Order”

Date: 01-02 November 2017

REGISTRATION FORM

Name (Mr./Mrs./Dr)………………………………………………………………………………………….

Designation…………………………………………………………………………………………………

Affiliating Institution……………………………………………………………………………………

Mailing Address…………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Email………………………………………………………………………………Mobile…………………………

Title of Paper……………………………………………………………………………………………..

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Amount……………………………………………………………………………………………………

Cash Receipt No…………………………………………………………………………………………

Dated…………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Signature of Applicant