

How Nato and G-7 are polarising the world

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On June 29, NATO held its landmark ساز تاریخ summit اجلاس in Madrid in which Finland and Sweden, the two neutral countries of Europe, were invited to join the Atlantic اتحاد alliance. Prior to that پہلے سے اس , on June 28, G-7 concluded کو تیجہ یا انجام its three-day summit in the Bavarian Alps of Germany in which Ukraine was assured humanitarian and economic assistance مدد while other matters like climate change, food and energy security, health, gender rights and counter terrorism were also discussed.

Back to back summits held in the month of June reflects growing assertiveness پین جارحانہ of the US-led Western bloc to not only exert maximum pressure on Russia following its attack on Ukraine but to also deal with the growing influence اثرورسوخ of China in the Asia-Pacific region. Likewise, Russia is facing a two-pronged رخى دو threat in the shape of NATO and G-7, whereas, it seems that both alliances اتحاد are overstretching (make excessive demands) their mandate حکم فرمان, from the Transatlantic (Britain,US) to the Asia-Pacific region.

Does this mean that NATO and G-7 are pursuing رکھنا جاری a confrontationist والا path? Will armed conflicts تنازعات and polarisation get a boost بڑھوتری as a result of

the West's anti-Russian and anti-Chinese **rhetoric** بیان بازی?
How will the **prevailing** والا، پھیلنے واپس **crisis** بحران, which got an **impetus** قوت as a result of the Russo-Ukrainian war, be managed? These are the questions that are raised by the **concerned** متعلقہ circles who are expecting world disorder following the **enlargement** توسیع of NATO and the **escalation** شدت of the Ukrainian war. **Provoking** مشتعل کرنا، اکسانا Russia by **issuing** جاری کرنا **harsh** سخت statements in NATO and G-7 summits will further compound an already polarised world order.

For instance طور پر , US President Joe Biden stated that "Putin was looking for the **'Finlandization'** of Europe. He's going to get the 'NATO-ization' of Europe. And that's exactly what he didn't want, but exactly what needs to be done to guarantee security for Europe." After holding trilateral meetings NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg made this clear by saying, "We will agree on a new Strategic Concept, the blueprint for NATO into the future." Reacting to the **so-called** نام strategic concept of NATO, Russian State Duma's international affairs committee Chairman Leonid Slutsky has said, "NATO's strategic concept is a **blind alley**."

The Madrid summit's decisions **jeopardize** خطرے میں ڈالنا security on the continent and elsewhere." Furthermore, on June 30, during the NATO summit, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated, "They [NATO] expect **unconditional** غیر مشروط **obedience** اطاعت from all states to their will, which reflects their **egoistic** گھمنڈی interests – primarily, the US

interests.” With the intensification شدت of the psychological tug کشمکش of war between the Western alliance and Russia, it seems that the world will be plunged ڈوب جانا into another dangerous phase of cold war with lethal مہلک جان لیوا، ramifications اثرات، نتائج.

In the July issue of The Economist (London), an article titled ‘NATO meets in Madrid’ states, “Russia’s invasion حملہ of Ukraine has upturned بہتری European security. In response, NATO is growing bigger and beefier مضبوط, adopting what Mr. Stoltenberg described as the biggest overhaul جائزہ، نظرثانی of our collective deterrence اٹکاؤ and defense since the cold war.” On the issuance of a “strategic concept”, The Economist argues دی that it was “a shorter version statement for NATO, and the alliance’s first such document in over a decade. It warned unsurprisingly, that Russia was the most significant and direct threat to allies اتحادیوں and that the possibility of attack could not be excluded خارج. Russia and China are developing a strategic partnership and are at the forefront سبب of an authoritarian آمرانہ pushback ردعمل against the rules-based international order.”

A century after the end of World War I, it seems that another phase of alliances with conflicting متضاد، متصادم interests is in offing نظرآنا in which on the one hand the US-led coalition composed of NATO, G-7 and Quad while on the other hand the Sino-Russo strategic partnership will determine the shape of things in the days to come. But how exactly will the neo-

containment policy of NATO impact the world order, and will China along with Russia form strategic alliances to **cope** نمٹنا with the growing **encirclement** احاطہ بندی led by NATO, G-7 and Quad are all important questions to consider.

With 750 billion dollars of defence budget, the US, despite its poor economy and a debt of 20 trillion dollars, is not **mindful** آگاہ of the dangerous **consequences** نتائج of its anti-Russian and anti-Chinese strategic alliances. The “strategic concept” of NATO announced in the June summit will now try to approach Austria and Switzerland, the two remaining neutral states of Europe, to join the Atlantic alliance so as to **pit the whole of Europe against** Russia. Will this strategy **yield** پیدا کرنا positive results?

The **imposition** نفاذ of **sanctions** پابندیاں has failed to cause a **dent** دینا نقصان in Putin’s **nationalistic** قومیت پرست mindset. Sanctions are unable to **severely** شدت سے hurt Russia’s economy and, in **retaliation** جوابی کارروائی, Moscow has **suspended** معطل کیا the Nord Stream 1 gas supply to Europe. Is the Transatlantic alliance prepared to **cope** نمٹنا and manage with this crisis? G-7 announced \$2.3 billion in humanitarian **assistance** مدد and \$29.5 billion in financial assistance to Ukraine along with \$600 billion in global infrastructure program in the coming five years in order to give a message that the richest countries of the world can exert pressure on Moscow and Beijing.

In this **backdrop** پس منظر, there are three things that need to be considered in order to maintain global balance.

First, **influential** اثر با world actors like the UN, India, Brazil, South Africa, Malaysia and Indonesia need to act as **mediators** ثالث to **de-escalate** کمی شدت میں tensions between the Transatlantic Alliance and Russia and China. Before it is too late and the world is **plunged** داخل ہونا into a dangerous phase of a new cold war, it is time that NATO and G-7 along with the EU also rethink their strategy to **contain** روکنا Russia and China by admitting new members into the Atlantic Alliance and by launching a global infrastructure program of \$600 billion to counter Beijing's **One Belt One Road project**.

Second, Russia must withdraw from Ukraine as it is **accused** الزام لگنا of attacking and occupying parts of a **sovereign** خودمختار country. Moscow's **expansionist** توسیع پسندانہ designs provided an opportunity to the Atlantic Alliance to respond by **augmenting** کرنا military supplies to Ukraine and admitting Sweden and Finland into NATO. Russian withdrawal from Ukraine as a result of a **quid pro quo** will **diffuse** بکھیرنا, the situation in Europe.

Third, the world is facing a **grave** سنگین food, fuel, water and environmental crisis. This provides an opportunity to powerful world actors including Russia, China, Japan, Australia, India, Brazil and Argentina to give **sanity** سمجھداری a chance and pull the world from the **surge** بڑھوا of a new cold war. It is late but not too late to prevent a similar situation that led to the **outbreak** آغاز of World War I.

Published in The Express Tribune,

Sri Lanka crisis

Editorial

The recent events in Sri Lanka should serve as a wakeup call for many leaders around the world. Sri Lanka's **embattled** president is now stuck in his own country in a **standoff** کشمکش that would put to shame anybody in that situation, with airport immigration staff blocking Gotabaya Rajapaksa's exit to safety abroad. The current crisis follows widespread protests against him over the country's **unprecedented** **economic meltdown**۔ Tens of thousands of protesters **overran** Rajapaksa's official residence, forcing him to **flee** فرار ہونا and make an attempt to travel to Dubai. Now Rajapaksa is **relying** انحصار کرنا on his **immunity** چھٹکارا from arrest as the president, before formally stepping down. He wanted to go abroad before resigning to avoid the possibility of being **detained** حراست میں رکھنا.

Rajapaksa was not the only one trying to escape, his brother Basil who resigned in April as finance minister also faced a similar **standoff** کشمکش with the airport staff. Reportedly, some other passengers protested against his **boarding** سوار ہونا their flight and a **tense** کشیدہ situation developed.

In all **likelihood** امکان, Rajapaksa will have to resign and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe will become acting president until parliament elects an MP to serve out the presidential term for the remaining 16 months before the tenure ends in November 2024. The **chaos** افراتفری and crisis in the country is

a result of the **acute** شدید mismanagement of the economy by Rajapaksa and his **cronies** قریبی ساتھیوں who have pushed Sri Lanka to a point where the country has run out of foreign exchange. It does not even have resources for the most essential of imports, and nearly all citizens are suffering from severe economic hardships. Three months ago, the country **defaulted** کرپانا on over its \$50 billion foreign **debt** قرضہ and has been seeking a possible **bailout** مالی معاونت with the **IMF**, which has been hard to come by.

Fuel is extremely **scarce** ناپید، نایاب now throughout the country and all non-essential offices and schools have been closed to reduce **commute time** and save on fuel consumption. A lot depends on how quickly the country's new president – to be elected on July 20 – takes charge of things and tries a turn-around. The current president and prime minister have offered to quit but the new **dispensation** نظام will not find it easy to manage the **mess** بے ترتیبی، گندگی left by a highly **incompetent** outgoing administration. When a government lacks capacity to rule effectively and efficiently, it **resorts** سہارا لینا to **ruthless** کچلنا، دباؤ ڈالنا methods of **crushing** سنگدل opponents, and that's what the Rajapaksa administration tried to do. Food and essentials are also running out and the country is going through its worst crisis in over 70 years. It is to be seen what the **outcome** اثر، نتیجہ of the next election is, but whatever this may be, nothing will be easy for the country over the coming months with an **inflation** مہنگائی rate that has **soared** بڑھ گئی so high

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded in 1949 and is a group of 30 countries from Europe and North America that exists to protect the people and territory of its members. The Alliance is founded on the principle of collective defence, meaning that if one NATO Ally is attacked, then all NATO Allies are attacked. For example, when terrorists attacked the United States on 9/11 2001, all NATO Allies stood with America as though they had also been attacked.

G.7

The Group of Seven is an inter-governmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition, the European Union is a 'non-enumerated member'.

Founded: 1975

Asia-Pacific (APAC) is the part of the world near the western Pacific Ocean. The Asia-Pacific region varies in area depending on context, but it generally includes East Asia, Oceania, the Russian Far East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

Polarization

division into two sharply contrasting groups or sets of opinions or beliefs.

"the polarization of society between rich and poor

Finlandization

noun

the process whereby a country is induced to favour, or refrain from opposing, the interests of a more powerful country, despite not being politically allied to it (originally with reference to the influence of the former Soviet Union on its neighbour Finland)

blind-alley

something that leads you nowhere or is of no use:
All our work has only led us up a blind alley.

cold war

noun

a state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare.

the state of hostility that existed between the Soviet bloc countries and the Western powers from 1945 to 1990

The Quadrilateral Security

Dialogue (QSD), colloquially the Quad (sometimes stylised as **QUAD** despite not being an acronym), is a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States that is maintained by talks between member countries. The dialogue was initiated in 2007 by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with the support of Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney. The dialogue was paralleled by joint military exercises of an unprecedented scale, titled Exercise Malabar.

The diplomatic and military arrangement was widely viewed as a response to increased Chinese economic and military power, and the Chinese government responded to the Quadrilateral dialogue by issuing formal diplomatic protests to its members, calling it "Asian NATO."

Containment was a geopolitical strategic foreign policy pursued by the United States during the Cold War to prevent the spread of communism after the end of World War II. The name was loosely related to the term cordon sanitaire, which was containment of the Soviet Union in the 1940s.

pit against

: to cause (someone or something) to fight or compete against (another person or thing) Tonight's game will pit Smith against Johnson for the championship

The **Belt and Road Initiative** (BRI, or B&R), formerly known as One Belt One Road or OBOR for short, is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in nearly 70 countries and international organizations. It is considered a centerpiece of the Chinese leader Xi Jinping's foreign policy. The BRI forms a central component of Xi's "Major Country Diplomacy") strategy, which calls for China to assume a greater leadership role for global affairs in accordance with its rising power and status. As of March 2022, 146 countries were listed as having signed up to the BRI.

Quid pro quo is a Latin phrase used in English to mean an exchange of goods or services, in which one transfer is contingent upon the other; "a favor for a favor". Phrases with similar meanings include: "give and take", "tit for tat", "you scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours", and "one hand washes the other".

An **economic meltdown** is an unexpected event that can occur at any point and has no standard cycle. It can occur due to financial deregulation, like the 2008 great recession, or an unexpected crisis, like the Covid-19 pandemic. The last meltdown in 2008 is well known as the Great Recession.

The International Monetary Fund (**IMF**) works to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity for all of its 190 member countries. It does so by supporting economic policies that promote financial stability and monetary cooperation, which are essential to increase productivity, job creation, and economic well-being.

Commute time means the normal time spent by the employee traveling from home to their assigned office. Normal commute time is not eligible for overtime. Employee travel before or after work hours to assigned office or area of assignment outside of assigned office must deduct normal commute time from overtime totals.