

Opinion

New world order

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THE Samarkand **summit** سربراہی اجلاس of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**, which met recently, provided an excellent opportunity for what is referred to in journalistic **jargon** صحافتی اصطلاح as a **'bilateral** ' دو طرفہ summit or 'on the sidelines' of a summit. It is a great **pity** افسوس that the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi **deliberately** جان بوجھ کر avoided a meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Mr Sharif is an administrator of **proven** ثابت شدہ **ability** قابلیت, a good **statesman** سیاست دان and a confirmed champion of Pakistan-India friendship.

This writer can state on the basis of personal knowledge that the former president of Pakistan, Gen Pervez Musharraf, held Shehbaz Sharif in considerable **esteem** عزت, his **estrangement** رنجش with the prime minister's elder brother Nawaz Sharif **notwithstanding** باوجود.

What cause is served by such international **sulks** روکھا, **thereby** اس آگے بڑھتا ہے **advanced** ? What national interest is **advanced** ? The US paid a heavy price for its secretary of state's (the **notorious** بدنام زمانہ John Foster Dulles) refusal to shake hands

with the prime minister of China Zhou Enlai at the Geneva Conference on Vietnam in 1954. It took a lot of backdoor diplomacy for Henry Kissinger to visit Beijing in 1971 in secret via Pakistan and that through the good offices of the president of Pakistan at the time, Yahya Khan. All others, including Romania, had failed to arrange the summit.

At Samarkand, Chinese President Xi Jinping had a **substantial** meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Ukraine war **notwithstanding**, the West helps the **hapless** suffering people of Ukraine in no way by calling Mr Putin a war criminal. The Chinese leader's meeting at Samarkand, in the present time of a **grave** crisis, with Mr Putin was a very **sensible** move. According to media reports, no doubt propelled by a common **aversion** towards the US, President Xi referred to President Putin as an "old friend", while the latter leader expressed his **gratitude** for China's "balanced" position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The SCO summit registered a **landmark** on the **evolution** of a new world order which **witnesses** the **dwindling** of American **hegemony**. The US clearly **resents** the **revival** of Russia under President Putin and the rise of China as a true Great Power. President Xi enjoys **universal** respect at a time when the US faces a **decline**. It remains a Great Power militarily and economically. But it **visibly** lacks the power it once enjoyed as other centres of **influence** arise to **dilute** its **hegemony**.

In this context **اسی تناظر میں**, the Samarkand summit has been put forward as an **alternative** **متبادل** to a 'Western-centric **organisation** **مغربی مرکز تنظیم**', at a time of increasing pressure on Moscow over Ukraine and growing anger in Beijing over Washington's support for Taiwan, which was **underlined** **نشاہدی کی** earlier by US President Joe Biden's offer of help to Taiwan in the case of an attack by China.

As reported in the media covering the summit, President Xi told the leaders who had gathered that "it was time to reshape the international system and **'abandon** **ترک کرنا** **zero-sum games** and bloc politics". Xi said that leaders should "work together to promote the development of the international order in a more **just** **منصفانہ** and rational **معقول** direction".

Putin, on his part, welcomed the increasing influence of non-Western countries outside the West, and criticised what he referred to as the **"instruments** **آلات** of **protectionism** **تحفظ** **پسندی**, illegal **sanctions** **پابندیاں** and economic selfishness". He **asserted** **دعویٰ کیا**: "The growing role of new centres of power who cooperate with each other ... is becoming more and more clear."

Meanwhile, the US State Department spokesman Ned Price said that China and Russia "share a vision for the world that is **starkly** **سراسر** **بالکل** **at odds** **متصادم** with the vision that's at the centre of the international system, the vision that has been at the centre of the international system for the past eight decades".

There can be no mistaking the **radical** **انقلابی** change in the

world order. China has emerged as a global player. Its presence is increasingly felt as it **launches** شروع کرتا ہے mega international projects. Russia is still a Great Power but a hugely **diminished** چھوٹا، کم one. **Gone** ختم ہوگئی is the empire in Eastern Europe; gone is the control over **communist parties** abroad – no funds for them; gone is also the very strict **dictatorship** آمریت of old.

America's influence has **waned** ختم ہوگئی، ماند پڑگئی. The Arab world is more **assertive** جارحانہ. So are South Asia and Southeast Asia. This is not the end. Assertion is now the norm in today's world. **Submissiveness** فرمانبرداری is on the decline. The reaction is for governments to question or stand up to other states attempting to force their **authority** اختیار on them.

All in all طور پر , what is **noteworthy** قابلِ غور is that the old global order is changing, though it is not easy to predict with any **certainty** یقین or **precision** درستگی the shape the new order will **acquire** حاصل کرنا. The **vague** مبہم **contours** شکلیں may be there, but with different stars in **ascendance** چڑھنا، عروج , and others **dimming** مدہم ہونا , it **will be a while** گا کچھ وقت لگے before a definite **outline** خاکہ begins to emerge on the **horizon** افق پر.

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Nuclear geopolitics

Editorial

TWO key international issues – Iran's **stand-off** کشمکش with the West over the former's nuclear programme, and Russian President Vladimir Putin's **apparent** واضح threat to use **nukes** جوہری ہتھیار against his Western **adversaries** مخالفین – have highlighted the use of the nuclear card in geopolitics. Regarding Iran, the country's President Ebrahim Raisi told the **UN General Assembly** that Tehran was not seeking nuclear weapons, in an obvious reference to the **stalled** رکے ہوئے, and some would say **doomed** برباد, **negotiations** مذاکرات to **revive** اعادہ the nuclear deal with the **P5+1**. Mr Raisi **reiterated** the call for American **guarantees** ضمانتوں that any new deal would not be scuttled, as the **JCPOA** was during the Trump presidency. The second development – which raises the **spectre** خدشہ of a 21st century nuclear war – should be cause for considerable **concern** تشویش throughout the global community. While addressing his nation, Mr Putin **ominously** سے بدمزاجی warned that those who were trying to “blackmail” Russia with “nuclear weapons should know that the wind can also turn in their direction”. There was little **nuance** ابمیت in the Russian leader's **pronouncement** اعلان, as American President Joe Biden termed the threat “irresponsible”, while **Nato** called it “reckless” لاپرواہ.

As for the new Iran deal, a wide **gulf** خلیج of mistrust prevents

Tehran and the Western states from reaching a **compromise** that would protect the interests of all involved. The **fervent** **lobbying** **Israeli** **lobbying** اثر ڈالنا یا قائل کرنا in Western capitals to **sabotage** توڑنا a new deal has certainly not helped matters. If Tehran has repeatedly said it does not want **nukes** ایٹمی ہتھیار, the Western states should **take it at its word** and help **forge** بنانا a new nuclear deal that protects the interests of all **signatories** فریق, while Iran should also be willing to make compromises. Coming to Mr Putin's threat, it is hoped he was **indulging** ملوث in **mere** محض **rhetoric** بیان بازی, even though he **insisted** اصرار کیا "this is not a **bluff** دھوکہ". A nuclear exchange between Russia and Nato would be an **unmitigated** نہ ختم ہونے والی **catastrophe** تباہی and any such plans need to be immediately **abandoned** ترک کرنا. Instead of **fanning** بھڑکانا the flames, both sides need to **back down** دستبردار ہونا and work towards a solution that guarantees Ukrainian independence, while allowing Russia to **save face** عزت یا ساکھ بحال رکھنا.

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The **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** was established as a multilateral association to ensure security and maintain stability across the vast Eurasian region, join forces to counteract emerging challenges and threats, and enhance trade, as well as cultural and humanitarian cooperation.
founded june 15, 2001.

If you refer to a situation as a **zero-sum game**, you mean that if one person gains an advantage from it, someone else involved must suffer an equivalent disadvantage.

A **communist party** is a political party that seeks to realize the socio-economic goals of communism. The term communist party was popularized by the title of The Manifesto of the Communist Party (1848) by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. As a vanguard party, the communist party guides the political education and development of the working class (proletariat). As a ruling party, the communist party exercises power through the dictatorship of the proletariat.

UNGA

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, serving as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN. Currently in its 77th session, its powers, composition, functions, and procedures are set out in Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter.

The **P5+1** refers to the UN Security Council's five permanent members (the P5); namely China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; plus Germany. The P5+1 is often referred to as the E3+3 by European countries

The **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action**, known commonly as the Iran nuclear deal or Iran deal, is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015, between Iran and the P5+1 together with the European Union.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**), also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states – 28 European and two North American. Established in the aftermath of World War II, the organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty, which was signed in Washington, D.C., on 4 April 1949.

'take sb at their word'

If you take someone at their word, you believe that they mean exactly what they say. They're willing to take him at his word when he says, 'I'll change

Today's words Synonyms

foment (verb): instigate; incite; provoke.

perilously (adverb): alarmingly; critically; desperately.

enormity (noun): baseness; blackness; depravity.

permeate (verb): infiltrate; pervade; suffuse.

nuance (noun): shade; shading; gradation.

retreat(verb): withdraw; retire; flee

overt (adjective): undisguised; unconcealed; apparent.

embolden (verb): encourage; hearten; strengthen.

cordial (adjective): friendly; warm; genial.

coup (noun): success; triumph; feat.

Today's Vocabulary and their Use

botched ناکام کوشش : a botched attempt to steal a car.

brunt خمیازه صدمه: education will bear the brunt of the cuts.

pulverize مسمار کرنا یا پیسنا: the brick of the villages was pulverized by the bombardment.

decimate ختم کرنا: the inhabitants of the country had been decimated.

endurance برداشت: she was close to the limit of her endurance