

American Footprints and Fault Lines in the World

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Abstract

The purpose of writing this paper is to analyze the American role in world politics. The intention behind writing this paper is to analyze the factors which forced America to go on the back foot and to see what faults and mistakes were committed by America since its birth and especially after assuming the role of sole super power of the world which will help us to understand its policies and the objectives of American government regarding the rest of the world. American after assuming the role of a superpower committed many faults throughout its history and still it is committing lot of faults which will ultimately result in the shape of loosing of friend after friend in the world and it appeared as a unreliable friend for its allies and for the developing countries like Pakistan who mostly depended upon its assistance for their developmental program. This paper enables us to understand the faults which America committed throughout its history and due to which its popularity declined. America lost its creditability due to its fault line in the world. Primary and secondary sources were collected and then content analysis was made to write this paper.

Introduction

United States of America emerged on the map of world in the eighteen century. This new born country started its march on the road of progress and prosperity and after industrial revolution in Europe it became a power in the World. United States began its history as an agricultural, or farming, society. At the birth of the nation in 1776 about 90 percent of the American people were farmers. Throughout the colonial period the vast majority of the colonists made their living by tilling the soil and harvesting its fruits. Later America became super power due to industrialization and its sound economy is also due to a very strong industrial base. It has a powerful agriculture sector also but the main source of its economic growth was industrialization. Especially America has control over defense production for a long period in the world. After assuming the status of a Super power America started to take active part in the world politics. Since when America started active participation in world politics, it committed many faults which forced it allies to left the America alone in the world. America did not appear to be a trustable friend in the hour of need for its friends and allies. America hegemony over world politics is due to sole power of the world and there is no other superpower in the world today.

America participated in two world Wars and it was America who dropped two atom bombs on Japan. America is far ahead from the rest of countries in defense production and it supplies the arms to almost whole the world. However American government adopted the policy of pick and choose and it kept its own interest supreme. America developed friendly relations with many countries of the world but it did not prove equal to the task and leave its friends when they badly needed it support. America picked new friends and started playing game with them.

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Though it helped the countries in the world like that of economic aid, military assistance, etc. America also used the umbrella of United Nations since World War II to help the needy nations. However, America kept its own interests supreme and all its dealings depend upon its objectives and interests. Though as a nation it is good for America to keep its interest supreme but moral values demand that a friend in need is a friend indeed.

After the collapse of Russia, America is the sole super power of the World. Therefore it should be more responsible and careful in its dealings. It should pay more attention to help its friends in the World to keep its reputation as a trustworthy friend in tact which it did not have so far. World is changing very fast. This is the age of globalization and no nation can survive without the help of other nation. This is time to come closer to each other and there should be combined efforts to eradicate illiteracy, hunger, disease, poverty. This is the time to end War in the World and to end terrorism and to make this earth a heaven to live in. The developed nations should help underdeveloped nations to develop. There should be combined efforts to provide basic necessities of life to the common people of the whole world.

American Fault Line

Let us see the history of the fault line of America in the world and especially with reference to South Asia. The first residents of what is now the United States emigrated from Asia over 15,000 years ago by crossing Beringia into what is now present-day Alaska. Archaeological evidence of these people, the ancestors of the Native Americans, dates back to 14,000 years ago. (Wilford, 2008) Christopher Columbus was the first European to land in the territory of what is now the United States when he arrived in Puerto Rico in 1492. The subsequent arrival of settlers from Europe began the colonial history of the United States. The Thirteen English colonies that would become the original US states were founded along the east coast beginning in 1607. Spain, France and Russia also founded settlements in what would become US territory.

The population of the Thirteen Colonies grew rapidly, reaching 50,000 by 1650, 250,000 by 1700, and 2.5 million by 1775. Most free men owned their own farms and could vote in elections for the colonial legislatures, while local judges and local juries dispensed justice. Royal soldiers were rarely seen. (Taylor, 2001)

The colonists did not have representation in the ruling British government and believed they were being denied their constitutional rights as Englishmen whenever parliament tried to tax them. After fighting broke out in April 1775, the colonies ousted all royal officials and set up their own governments, which were led from Philadelphia by the Continental Congress and its commander in chief, General George Washington. The American Revolution escalated into all-out war. The new nation declared independence in July 1776 as the United States of America. After Americans captured the British invasion army in 1777, France became a military ally, and the war became a major international war with evenly balanced forces. With the capture of a second British invasion army at Yorktown in 1781, the British opened peace negotiations. The Treaty of Paris in 1783 proved highly favorable to the new nation. (www.america.gov). The 1783 Treaty of Paris represented the Kingdom of Great Britain's formal acknowledgment of the United States as "free sovereign and independent states" (Treaty of Paris, 1783).

The new national government proved too weak, so a Constitutional Convention was called in 1787 to create an alternative. The resulting Constitution of the United States, ratified in 1788, created a federal government based on the ideology of republicanism, equal rights, and civic duty. The first ten amendments known as the Bill of Rights quickly followed, guaranteeing many individual rights from federal interference. The new national government under President George Washington began operation in 1789, and built a strong economic system, designed by Alexander Hamilton, that settled the wartime debts, created a national bank and

sought economic growth based on cities and trade, more than farming. Hamilton formed the Federalist Party to gain wide local support for the new policies, which were opposed by Thomas Jefferson.

Jefferson was elected president in 1800 and doubled the land area of the United States by the purchase of Louisiana from France in 1803. Rapid economic and population growth created a powerful nation, but tensions escalated between the slaveholding plantation South and the industrial North, which had long since abolished slavery. In response to multiple grievances, the Congress declared war on Britain in 1812. The grievances included humiliating the Americans in the "Chesapeake incident of 1807, continued British induction of American sailors into the Royal Navy, restrictions on trade with France, and arming hostile Indians in Ohio and the western territories. (Wood, 2009) The war was a major loss for Native American tribes in the Northwest and Southeast who had allied themselves with Britain and who were defeated on the battlefield which might be considered as a fault as they lost their own men in the war. But two wars helped to change the United States. The War of 1812 fought against Britain, cut off for 3 years the supply of British manufactured goods to the United States. Americans had to build their own factories. Since the war was fought mainly on the seas, it almost destroyed the American shipping fleet. Merchants who had formerly invested their money in ships now invested in the new cotton and wool mills. But 1815 the United States had six times as many cotton spindles at work as it had before the war started. There were many more banks. For the next 40 years American industry grew slowly. The long period of peace between the War of 1812 and the Civil War gave Americans the chance to prepare for an industrial revolution. The purchase of Louisiana and the Mexican War extended the boundaries for the country to the Pacific Ocean. The California Gold Rush in 1849 spread the population in one great leap from the Mississippi River California. The mid-western farmers raised wheat, pork, and beef. The southern farmers raised cotton. Both raised more than they needed and sold the surplus. The Northeast had the seaports from which these products could be shipped abroad. The Northeast also had growing cities, dairy products, and textile and shoe factories. To link these sections, especially the West to the Northeast a vast network of canals was there, railroads link was built. In 1849 cholera spread along the California and Oregon Trails. An estimated 150,000 Americans died during the two cholera pandemics between 1832 and 1849 (Beardslee).

By 1860 the United States had the largest railroad system in the World. It carried the products of American manufacturers to many parts of the United States. The Civil War began on April 12, 1861, when Confederate forces attacked a US military installation at Fort Sumter in South Carolina. (Lambert, 2001) Along with the northwestern portion of Virginia, four of the five northernmost "slave states" did not secede and became known as the Border States (Zinn, 2003).

Based on 1860 census figures, 8% of all white males aged 13 to 43 died in the war, including 6% in the North and an extraordinary 18% in the South, (Trachtenberg, 2007) establishing the American Civil War as the deadliest war in American history. During the War the Union government bought large amounts of foodstuffs, clothing, and firearms. To meet the demand, new factories were built and old ones expanded. Machinery was built that speeded up production on the farms and in the factories. The railroad system kept pace with this revolution. By 1900 the United States had more railroads than all of Europe. The Civil War created millionaires who used their money to invest in new industries. The federal government lent a helping hand. A high tariff (tax) on foreign imports made those products more expensive than American wares. This encouraged Americans to buy American made goods and local companies received very generous grants of land for the rail-road track they laid. Though the War was a necessary evil but a fault which was committed by American people. The South in 1861 tried to break away and form its own country, the "Confederacy,"

in response to threats to its *peculiar institution*—slavery. The Civil War lasting four years became the deadliest war in American history. Under the leadership of Republican Abraham Lincoln the rebellion was crushed, the nation reunified, the slaves freed, and the South put under Reconstruction for a decade. Its legacy included ending slavery in the United States, restoring the Union, and strengthening the role of the federal government. The social, political, economic and racial issues of the war decisively shaped the reconstruction era, which lasted through 1877, and brought about changes that would eventually help make the country a united superpower.

The America always made friendship and helped a country for its own interests and objectives. The United States emerged as a world economic and military power after 1890. The main episode was the Spanish-American War, which began when Spain refused American demands to reform its oppressive policies in Cuba. The "splendid little war," as one official called it involved a series of quick American victories on land and at sea. At the peace conference the United States acquired the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Cuba became an independent country, under close American tutelage. Although the war itself was widely popular, the peace terms proved controversial. William Jennings Bryan led his Democratic Party in opposition to control of the Philippines, which he denounced as imperialism unbecoming to American democracy. McKinley defended the acquisition, and was riding high as the nation had returned to prosperity and felt triumphant in the war. McKinley easily defeated Brian in a rematch in the 1900 presidential election. After defeating an insurrection by Filipino nationalists, the United States engaged in a large scale program to modernize the economy of the Philippines, and dramatically upgrade the public health facilities.(Encyclopedia, 2007) By 1908, however, Americans lost interest in an empire, and turned their international attention to the Caribbean, and especially the building of the Panama Canal. The canal opened in 1914, and increased trade with Japan and the rest of the Far East. Again America left its friend on the mercy of time which was another fault. A key policy innovation was the Open Door Policy, whereby the imperial powers were given equal access to Chinese business, with no one of them allowed to take control of China.(findarticles.com) This was the admission by the America that China is now a growing power especially in terms of economy, however China has less superior technology in defense production than that of America and West.

Following First World War, the U.S. grew steadily in stature as an economic and military world power. The United States Senate did not ratify the Treaty of Versailles imposed by its Allies on the defeated Central Powers; instead, the United States chose to pursue unilateralism, if not isolationism.(Wikipedia.org) The aftershock of Russia's October Revolution resulted in real fears of communism in the United States, leading to a three-year Red Scare. In 1918 the U.S. lost 675,000 people to the Spanish flu pandemic. (Wikipedia.org) It was a major setback for America in terms of manpower.

Rapid economic growth, fueled by entrepreneurs who created great new industries in railroads, steel, coal, textiles, and machinery operated by millions of immigrants from Europe (and some from Asia), built new cities overnight, making the U.S. the world's leading industrial power. Farming did not disappear as the nation became industrialized. It became industrialized too. The small farm operated by a single individual with the help of his own family was replaced by a large agricultural unit. This unit or large farming complex used tractors, mechanical plows, cultivators, harvesters and cotton pickers. The family farm which grew a variety of crops was largely replaced by the specialized farm growing only wheat or corn or tobacco or cotton. With Germany threatening to win First World War in part by sinking American ships, the U.S. entered the war in 1917, supplied the material, money and to a degree the soldiers needed to win. President Woodrow Wilson declared U.S. entry into First World War in April 1917 following a yearlong neutrality policy; the U.S. had previously

shown interest in world peace by participating in the Hague Conferences. American participation in the war proved essential to the Allied victory. The U.S. partially dictated the peace terms, but refused to join the League of Nations, as it enjoyed unprecedented prosperity in the 1920s. This attitude of American government was a major fault and almost whole the world was unhappy and seeing to be helped by the America. Wilson also implemented a set of propositions titled the Fourteen Points to ensure peace, but they were denied at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. Isolationist sentiment following the war also blocked the U.S. from participating in the League of Nations, an important part of the Treaty of Versailles. (Wikipedia.org) The decision of the America to not join the League of Nations was a fault and discrimination to the under develop countries because America refused to pay its share for the development of the world through League of Nations. Following First World War, the U.S. grew steadily in stature as an economic and military world power. Meanwhile America continued to gain strength in its economy. The business corporations of the United States continued to increase their volume. In 1927 there were 44 firms making automobiles which later converted into 04 companies manufactured 99 percent of all cars made in the United States. Large corporations produced most of America's manufactured goods and while these companies were increasing their volume, they became more efficient and employ more machines and fewer men. During most of the 1920s, the United States enjoyed a period of unbalanced prosperity, farm prices and wages fell, while new industries and industrial profits grew. The boom was fueled by an inflated stock market, which later led to a crash on October 29, 1929. (Wikipedia.org) this, along with many other economic factors, triggered a worldwide depression known as the Great Depression. During this time, the United States experienced deflation, unemployment increased from 3% in 1929 to 25% in 1933, and manufacturing output collapsed by one-third. This was the result of negative attitude of America towards its friends and allies. The crash of 1929 started the worldwide Great Depression, which was long and severe for the entire country.

In 1932, Democratic presidential nominee Franklin D. Roosevelt promised "a new deal for the American people", a phrase that has endured as a label for his administration and its many domestic achievements. The desperate economic situation, along with the substantial Democratic victories in the 1932 elections, gave Roosevelt unusual influence over Congress in the "First Hundred Days" of his administration. He used his leverage to win rapid passage of a series of measures to create welfare programs and regulate the banking system, stock market, industry and agriculture, along with many other government efforts to end the Great Depression and reform the American economy. Some programs that were a part of Roosevelt's New Deal include the Works Progress Administration (WPA) relief program, the Social Security Act, the Emergency Banking Act, and the Economy Act. The recovery was rapid in all areas except unemployment, which remained fairly high until 1940.

The U.S. joined the Allied Forces of Second World War in December 1941 after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Second World War (1941–1945)

Like that of First World War, the United States did not enter Second World War until after the rest of the active Allied countries had done so. The United States first contribution to the war was simultaneously to cut off the oil and raw material supplies needed by Japan to maintain its offensive in China, and to increase military and financial aid to China. Contribution came to the Allies in September 1940 in the form of the Lend-Lease program with Britain. The entry into war was could be consider as fault but America could not avoid entry into the war. On December 7, 1941 Japan launched a surprise attack on the American naval base in Pearl Harbor, citing America's recent trade embargo as justification. This was a major damage to America's prestige and economy. The following day, Franklin D. Roosevelt

successfully urged a joint session of Congress to declare war on Japan, calling December 7, 1941 "a date which will live in infamy". Four days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 11, Nazi Germany declared war on the United States, drawing the country into a two-theater war.

Battle against Germany

The United States first step was to set up a large Air force in Britain to concentrate on bombing raids into Germany. The American Air force relied on the B-17 Flying Fortress as its primary heavy bomber. Britain had ceased its daylight bombing raids, due to heavy casualties inflicted by the Luftwaffe. The USAAF suffered similar high losses until the introduction of the P-51 Mustang as a long range escort fighter for the bombers. The American army's first ground action was fighting alongside the British, Australian and New Zealand armies in North Africa. By May 1943, the British 8th Army had expelled the Germans from North Africa and the Allies controlled this vital link until the end of the war. The American navy also played an active role in the Atlantic protecting the convoys bringing vital American war material to Britain. By midway through 1943, the Allies were fighting the war from Britain with unbroken supply lines, while at the same time Hitler's armies were very much on the back foot, with heavy bombing taking its toll on production.

By early 1944, a planned invasion of Western Europe was underway. What followed on June 6, 1944, was Operation Overlord, or D-Day. The largest war armada ever assembled landed on the beaches of Normandy and began the penetration of Western Europe that eventually overthrew Hitler and Nazi Germany. Following the landing at Normandy, the Americans contributed greatly to the outcome of the war, with dogged fighting in the Battle of the Bulge resulting in Allied victories against the Germans. The battles took a heavy toll on the Americans, who lost 19,000 men during the Battle of the Bulge alone. Though heavy damage received by the America during the war but entry into war was necessary evil. The allied bombing raids on Germany increased to unprecedented levels after the D-Day invasion, with over 70% of all bombs dropped on Germany occurring after this date. On April 30, 1945, with Berlin completely overrun with Russian forces and his country in tatters, Adolf Hitler committed suicide. On May 8, 1945, the war with Germany was over, following its unconditional surrender to the Allied forces. Though the war was imposed by the German on Americans but to enter into war was again a fault committed by America. It caused heavy damage in material and manpower to the Americans. But a bold step to enter war for the aid of its allies.

Battle against Japan

Due to the United States commitment to defeating Hitler in Europe, the first years of the war against Japan was largely a defensive battle with the United States Navy attempting to prevent the Japanese Navy from asserting dominance of the Pacific region. Initially, Japan won most of its battles in a short time. Japan quickly defeated and created military bases in Guam, Thailand, Malaya, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Burma. This was done virtually unopposed and with quicker speed than that of the German Blitzkrieg during the early stages of the war. This was important for Japan, as it had only 10% of the homeland industrial production capacity of the United States.

The turning point of the war was the Battle of Midway in June 1942. Following this, the Americans began fighting towards China where they could build an airbase suitable to commence bombing of mainland Japan with its B-29 Super fortress fleet. The Americans began by selecting smaller, lesser defended islands as targets as opposed to attacking the major Japanese strongholds. During this period, they inadvertently triggered what would become their most comprehensive victory in the entire war.

The Pacific war became the largest naval conflict in history. The American Navy emerged victorious, after at one point being stretched near to the breaking point, with almost complete destruction of the Japanese Navy. The American forces were then poised for an invasion of the Japanese mainland, to force the Japanese into unconditional surrender. On April 12, 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died and Vice President Harry S. Truman was sworn in as the 33rd President of the United States. The use of atomic weapons against Japan was subsequently authorized. This decision was a cruel fault of America in its history.

The decision to use nuclear weapons to end the conflict has been one of the most controversial decisions of the war. Supporters of the use of the bombs argue that an invasion would have cost an enormous numbers of lives, while opponents argue that the large number of civilian casualties resulting from the bombings was unjustified. The first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. On August 15, 1945, the Japanese surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II. The Pacific war claimed the lives of more than 100,000 US soldiers (Gaddis, 2005). The dropping of Atom bombs was a serious fault in the history of U.S. He loosed the admiration which South Asian nations had due to its rapid progress.

Postwar hopes that the new United Nations would resolve the (Gaddis, 2005) world's problems failed, as Europe was divided and the U.S. took the lead in the Cold War with a policy of containing Soviet expansion. Containment led to wars in Korea (a stalemate) and Vietnam (lost). Both these wars were mistakes committed by America and considered as faults.

The Cold War (1945–1964)

Following Second World War, the United States emerged as one of the two dominant superpowers. The U.S. Senate, on December 4, 1945, approved U.S. participation in the United Nations (UN), which marked a turn away from the traditional isolationism of the U.S. and toward more international involvement. The post-war era in the United States was defined internationally by the beginning of the Cold War, in which the United States and the Soviet Union attempted to expand their influence at the expense of the other, checked by each side's massive nuclear arsenal and the doctrine of mutual assured destruction. The result was a series of conflicts during this period including the Korean War and the tense nuclear showdown of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Within the United States, the Cold War prompted concerns about Communist influence, and also resulted in government efforts to focus mathematics and science toward efforts such as the space race (Azmi, 2001). It caused much damage to American economy. However if the amount might be spent for research and advancement of science and technology, it would be beneficial for Americans as well as for the rest of the world. So America by starting a missile and space race made another fault. South Asia has figured in US foreign policy in the context of its relation with the other Superpower-The Soviet Union (www.census.gov/population).

In 1960, John F. Kennedy was elected President. Known for his charisma, he was the first and -thus far - only Roman Catholic to have been elected President. The Kennedy family had brought a new life and vigor to the atmosphere of the White House. His time in office was marked by such notable events as the acceleration of the United States' role in the space race; escalation of the American role in the Vietnam War, the Cuban missile crisis, the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the jailing of Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Birmingham campaign, and the appointment of his brother Robert F. Kennedy to his Cabinet as Attorney General. Though he had a charismatic personality but almost all his above mentioned decisions proved harmful for America and considered as faults. Another fault of America appeared when US decided to provide India with military aid in the aftermath of the Sino India war in 1962 (Azmi, 2001)

John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, leaving the nation in profound shock (Brien, 2005).

These two wars proved to be unnecessary adventures for America. Economic prosperity after the war empowered families to move to the suburbs and engage in a Baby Boom that pushed the population from 140 million in 1940 to 203 million in 1970. The industrial economy based on heavy industry gave way to a service economy featuring health care and education, as America led the way to a computerized world. The end of the Cold War came in 1991 as Soviet Communism collapsed.

The Counterculture Revolution and Cold War *Détente* (1964–1980)

Johnson was succeeded by President Richard Nixon in 1969, which initially escalated the Vietnam War but soon negotiated a peace treaty in 1973, effectively ending American involvement in the war. The war had cost the lives of 58,000 American troops and millions of Vietnamese. A useless and unnecessary adventure was another fault among the several others American faults. Nixon used a conflict in the Eastern Bloc between the Soviet Union and China to the advantage of the United States, bolstering relations with the People's Republic of China (Dallek, 2007). A new era of Cold War relations known as *détente* (cooperation) was begun (www.Cambridge.org).

The OPEC oil embargo led to a period of slow economic growth in 1973. The U.S. was afflicted with a recession, an energy crisis, slow economic growth, high unemployment, and high inflation coupled with high interest rates (the term stagflation was coined). The Watergate scandal, resulting from the break-in into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C. ultimately led to Nixon's resignation on August 9, 1974, as well as the indictment and conviction of several Nixon administration officials. During the years of his successor, Gerald Ford, the American-backed South Vietnamese government collapsed.

Jimmy Carter, running as someone who was not a part of the Washington political establishment, was elected president in 1976 (www.Pbs.org). On the world stage, Carter brokered the Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt which was also unpopular because it did help the struggle of Palestinian people. However America hoped it would prove fruitful for durable peace in the middle-east. In 1979, Iranian students stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took 52 Americans hostage, resulting in the Iran hostage crisis. America led operation failed in Iran which was again a major fault committed by America. As a result of the hostage crisis and continuing stagflation, Carter lost the 1980 election to Republican Ronald Reagan, whose campaign message advertised that his presidency would bring "Morning in America" (Raine, 2004). On January 20, 1981, minutes after Carter's term in office ended, the 52 U.S. captives held at the U.S. embassy in Iran were released, ending the 444-day Iran hostage crisis (www.History.com).

The end of the Cold War (1980–1991)

Ronald Reagan produced a major realignment with his 1980 and 1984 landslides. Reagan's economic policies (dubbed "Reaganomics") and the implementation of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 lowered income taxes from 70% to 28% over the course of seven years. Reagan continued to downsize government taxation and regulation (Wilentz, 2008). The U.S. experienced a recession in 1982; unemployment and business failures soon entered rates close to Depression-era levels. These negative trends reversed the following year, when the inflation rate decreased from 11% to 2%, the unemployment rate decreased from 10.8% in December 1982 to 7.5% in November 1984, (www.Miseryindex.us) and the economic growth rate increased from 4.5 to 7.2% (Wilentz, 2008).

Reagan ordered a massive buildup of the U.S. military, incurring a costly budget deficit. This was another fault of America. Reagan introduced a complicated missile defense system known as the Strategic Defense Initiative (dubbed "Star Wars" by opponents) in which the U.S. could, in theory, shoot down missiles with laser systems in space. Though it was never fully developed or deployed, (Wilentz, 2008) the Soviets were genuinely concerned about the possible effects of the program (www.pbs.org) and the research and technologies of SDI paved the way for the anti-ballistic missile systems of today (Science.howstuffworks.com).

The Reagan administration also provided covert funding and assistance to anti-Communist resistance movements worldwide. Reagan's interventions against Grenada and Libya were popular in the U.S., though his backing of the Contra rebels was mired in controversy. (John, 1991) These actions were responsible for decreasing American influence worldwide and should be recognized as American fault line. This led another power to gain its strength and influence on the world nations. The arms-for-hostages scandal led to the convictions of such figures as Oliver North and John Poindexter (Wilentz, 2008).

Reagan met four times with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who ascended to power in 1985, and their summit conferences led to the signing of the INF Treaty. Gorbachev tried to save Communism in the Soviet Union first by ending the expensive arms race with America, (Wilentz, 2008) then by shedding the East European Empire in 1989. But America continued its massive arms buildup. The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, ending the US-Soviet Cold War. From the above discussion it is clear that due to America is not popular among even his close allies and other powers did not trust it.

More than any recent American president, Obama displayed deep deference to his Asian counterparts. He did so, in part, because, like many Americans, he has become convinced that this will be Asia's century, and that the United States must begin to accommodate itself to this stark new geopolitical fact. A recent report by the US National Intelligence Council concluded that the world is witnessing the rise of "major global players similar to the advent of a united Germany in the 10th century and a powerful United States in the early 20th century and they will transform the geopolitical landscape." Major media outlets covered the president as if he was some kind of Dickensian vagrant, appealing to his increasingly powerful creditors in China for leniency. "Obama's trip reveals a relationship with a strangely lopsided quality to it," wrote longtime China specialist Jonathan Fenby, in one typical example of the coverage. Over the past two years, some of the most important foreign policy thinkers have chronicled America's decline, and argued that Asia is rising to preeminence. Parag Khanna's "The Second World: Empires and Influence in the New Global Order" landed on the cover of The New York Times Magazine, while Fareed Zakaria's "The Post-American World" became a bestseller. Meanwhile, the influential former Singaporean ambassador Kishore Mahbubani, who helped spark the "Asian values" debate of the 1990s, released "The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible Shift of Global Power to the East." Martin Jacques, a prominent columnist for The Guardian, took the idea one step further. In his book "When China Rules the World," he contends that China's rise will have a greater impact on the globe than the emergence of the United States as an international power in the 20th century.

Yet predictions of America's decline are vastly overstated. Asia is indeed increasing its economic footprint in the world, but it still lags far behind the United States in military might, political and diplomatic influence, and even most measures of economic stability. Asia's growth, the source of its current strength, also has significant limits - rising inequality, disastrous demographics, and growing unrest that could scupper development. Nationalism in Asia will prevent the region from developing into a European Union-like unified area for the foreseeable future, allowing regional conflicts to continue, and preventing Asia from speaking, more powerfully, with a unified voice. The first manufacturing cycle was, of

course, the First Industrial Revolution that started in Europe, or more specifically England. Starting towards the end of the eighteenth century, this lasted almost a century, tapering off in the middle of the nineteenth century. The second had its origins in the second half of the nineteenth century, in what is known as the Second Industrial Revolution in England itself. But the early twentieth century was when it reached its peak with the United States of America becoming the manufacturing superpower of the world. This era lasted for slightly more than two generations.

The third cycle moved eastwards on the map and saw the ascendancy of Japan as the manufacturing center for the world. The 'Made in Japan' label became more rampant and finally more acceptable as a mark of quality than the 'Made in USA' label. Two specific product lines, consumer electronics and automobiles, were at the visible forefront of the Japanese era. The Japanese era stretched slightly longer than a generation (30 years) starting in the second half of the twentieth century, or more specifically, around the seventies. We are living through the fourth cycle right now, and nobody needs to be told that the manufacturing center of the universe today is in China. The Chinese era started towards the end of the twentieth century, with the Encyclopedia Britannica noting that "The pace of industrialization quickened and diversified after 1990." (Britannica, 2010) The U.S. was the only military superpower left, but it was challenged for economic supremacy by China, which remained on good terms with the U.S. as it embraced capitalism and by 2010 was growing much more rapidly than the U.S. The Reagan Era of conservative national policies, deregulation and tax cuts took control with the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980. By 2010, political scientists were debating whether, the election of Barack Obama in 2008 represented an end of the Reagan Era, or was only a reaction against the bubble economy of the 2000s, which burst in 2008 and became the Late-2000s recession with prolonged unemployment. (Johnston, Osburn, 2010)

Pakistan America Friendship

In the decades after Second World War, the United States became a global influence in economic, political, military, cultural, and technological affairs. Beginning in the 1950s, middle-class culture had a growing obsession with consumer goods. White Americans made up nearly 90% of the population in 1950. (Americans Foreign Policy, 1959) As America became a global power, it started to increase its influence on the different parts of the world like South Asia but it failed to be a trustworthy friend and always left their allies at the mercy of their enemies at the time of need. Therefore it was a major fault of American Foreign policy. We have the example of Pakistan.

Pakistan established diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in 1947. But America showed no intention to have good cordial relation with Pakistan. In 1947, Jinnah referred to the great tradition of American democracy while accepting the credentials (Dawn, 1947) of Paul H. Alling as U.S Ambassador. But America's lack of interest in the new state, however, was indicated by the delay until 1950 of the replacement of the first Ambassador. (Choudhry, 1975) Thus due to lack of American interest there was not healthy friendly relations between two countries. Then at that time America was more interested in Middle East and had friendly relations with India. So both these things acted as hindrance between good relations between America and Pakistan. Though, Pakistan desired to have good relations with America. The path toward closer association between the two countries proved to be circuitous, complicated not only by U.S. policy in the Middle East and Southeast Asia but also by Indo-American relations. (Nehru's Speeches, 1953-57) However the ice was broken for the relation between Pakistan and America due to the visit of Liaquat Ali Khan in 1950. His visit to the United States in 1950 deemed to be an impressive success (Khan, 1951).

Pakistan join SEATO in 1954, (Baghdad Pact) in 1955 which later renamed as CENTO, bilateral agreement with US in 1959 according to which USA will take such appropriate action, including the use of armed force, as may be mutually agreed upon in order to assist the govt. of Pakistan as its request and it reaffirmed its support for the national independence and integrity of Pakistan (Azmi, 2001). Most of Pakistanis joyfully understand that with mighty America standing behind Pakistan and ready to supply modern military equipment, Pakistan could deal with India in the way India deserved to be dealt with? But America never fulfilled its commitment. America committed such faults again and again. On the other hand it helped India to boost its military buildup. As next day the US ambassador to India called on the foreign office to give assurances that the defensive agreement signed yesterday was limited to communist aggression (Azmi, 2001). India had all the assurances of America for its security and defense and it was contrary to the commitment of America made to Pakistan. On 13th March, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru revealed in the Indian Parliament that he had been specifically assured that this agreement cannot be used against India. (Baber, 1974). This policy proved very harmful for good cordial relations between Pakistan and America and there was not reliable trust among them. Between 1949 and 1964, India received from the US nearly ten times greater economic assistance than did Pakistan (Khan, 1972). Another non friendly attitude shown by America when in fifties, the US leaders proclaimed India as a model for developing countries in opposition to China, but President John F. Kennedy caused greater annoyance in Pakistan by urging P. M. Nehru, 'to extend his leadership' in the region (Khan, 1972). According to the Economist the Indian Government had secured, in May 1964, an offer of military aid from the US totaling 200 million pounds over the coming five years. (Venkatramani, 1984) This fault line forced Pakistan to develop friend-ship with his trustworthy neighbor China which appeared to be a growing power in the world. The later history of relations between America and Pakistan is the same as stated above. US suspended arms supplies to India and Pakistan during 1965 Indo-Pakistan war. (Azmi, 2001) Pakistan heavily relied on the US arms supplies at that time. Thus the decision of suspension arms supply to Pakistan caused a heavy damage to Pakistan. Pakistan insisted that India's crossing of the international frontier on September 6 constituted a case of real aggression requiring under America's commitments to Pakistan, aid from the United States (Choudhry, 1975) but of no use. America did not fulfill its commitments. The U.S. Ambassador replied on September 10, that;

The United States regards India's strike across the Punjab frontier as a most serious development but India's attack across the Pakistan border must be viewed in an overall context-that immediate crisis began with a substantial infiltration of armed men from the Pakistan side to the Indian part of Kashmir (Choudhry, 1967-71).

US remained for all practical purposes, a silent spectator during 1971 Indo-Pakistan war (Azmi, 2001). In an account of America's role during the Bangladesh crisis /Indo-Pakistan war in his report to the U.S Congress on February 9, 1972, President Nixon stressed that 'the United States did not support or condone' Islamabad's harsh repression of the East (Choudhry, 1975). Thus throughout the Pakistan and U.S relations, U.S did not fulfilled its commitments. However Pakistan remained loyal to U.S. and continued its efforts to have good relations with America. Pakistan's frantic appeals for security guarantees in the aftermath of the Indian nuclear explosion in 1974 failed to evoke any meaningful response from the United States and even the promised supply of A-7 fighter planes in 1976 was linked to Pakistan's withdrawal to the nuclear option (Azmi, 2001). It is important to note that American people however did not like the government un-trustful attitude towards its allies such as Pakistan. The 1976 Democratic Party Platform went so far as to state that 'India has now achieved a considerable hegemony over the subcontinent and future American policy

should accept this fact.(Norman, 1978) However American government did not change its attitude and continued non friendly attitude towards Pakistan. The Carter administration confirmed Pakistan's worst fears when in April 1979, it added insult to injury by suspending all development aid to Pakistan on the unsubstantiated allegation that this country was manufacturing a nuclear device (Azmi, 2001). In this atmosphere America Pakistan relations grew. The Regan administration exhibited a better appreciation of Pakistan's needs and sensibilities (Azmi, 2001). As a result of negotiations held from April to June 1981, a 3.2\$ billion five-year aid package, divided almost equally between economic and security assistance to Pakistan, was announced on 15 June 1981. The package included the sale of forty F-16 aircraft also (Azmi, 2001). But again after supply of some aircraft the U.S. government stopped the supply of aircrafts due to Indian and Jewish pressure. This carrot-and-stick approach failed to get Pakistan to stop its programme which it maintained, being peaceful in purpose. This should be considered as a US foreign policy failure (Memon, 2001). As a result of it Pakistan decided to become a nuclear power. Consequently, the \$564 million aid from October 1990 to September 1991 was frozen (Bray, 1992). Pakistan again faced sanctions in 1998 when it made nuclear tests in response to Indian nuclear tests. Later America provided grants and aid of million of dollars to India but there were hesitation on the part of American administration to provide aid to Pakistan. However Pakistan remained faithful to America and proved a good friend to America. After the incidence of 9/11 in America, America started war against terrorism and Pakistan provided admiral support to it. However Pakistan paid a heavy price for this war in the shape of bomb blasts and terror activities in the Pakistan. America did not strengthen its ties with Pakistan in true spirit but asked Pakistan to do more and later America started drown attacks on the soil of Pakistan. Thus in this way America had a black spot on its reputation as a trust worthy friend.

The World Superpower (1991–present)

1991-2001

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the United States emerged as the world's sole remaining superpower and continued to involve itself in military action overseas, including the 1991 Gulf War.

The regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq proved a continuing problem for the UN and Iraq's neighbors in its refusal to account for previously known stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons, its violations of UN resolutions, and its support for terrorism against Israel and other countries. After the 1991 Gulf War, the US, French, and British military's began patrolling the Iraqi no-fly zones to protect Iraq's Kurdish minority and Shi'ite Arab population – both of which suffered attacks from the Hussein regime before and after the 1991 Gulf War – in Iraq's northern and southern regions, respectively.(bbc.co.uk) In the aftermath of Operation Desert Fox during December 1998, Iraq announced that it would no longer respect the no-fly zones and resumed its efforts in shooting down Allied aircraft (airpower.maxwell.af.mil). In Gulf War America and its allies stood victorious. After the War, America desired to create its supremacy over the world. To strengthen its hegemony, American President introduced a new idea of “New World Order” to be implemented by the coalition partners in the Gulf War by influencing their influence over underdeveloped and developing countries. The main objectives stated by the President on Voice of America are as follow;

- 1- To find out the reasons of various conflicts existing in the Middle East and try to solve these issues.
- 2- To help those countries which are under the suppression of other powerful countries?
- 3- To provide the protection to the citizens of USA.
- 4- To save the world from the fear of atomic War.

- 5- To stop other countries to attain nuclear power.
- 6- To help UNO to become more functional and organized to play better role to solve disputes like it did in Kuwait-Iraq crisis.
- 7- To provide economic aid to only those countries which should spent it on social development.
- 8- To make America stronger so that it should play central role for the betterment of its economy and to help poor countries to develop their economy.
- 9- To make sure that only democracy should become a system of the government and civil liberties should be provided to the citizens of these countries.
- 10- To help to control and eliminate drugs from the world.

The sole purpose of this New World Order was to bring the world under its influence which was again a fault committed by the American authorities and in the later American history America mostly worked to get the above stated objectives but it was unable to fulfill its dream so far.

During the 1990s the al-Qaeda terrorist network and other Islamic fundamentalist groups attempted terrorist attacks against the United States and other nations. In 1993, Ramzi Yousef, a Kuwaiti national, and suspected al-Qaeda operative, planted explosives in the underground garage of One World Trade Center and detonated them, killing six people and injuring thousands. Later that year in the Battle of Mogadishu, US Army Rangers engaged Somali militias supported by al-Qaeda in an extended firefight that cost the lives of 19 American soldiers. President Clinton subsequently withdrew US combat forces from Somalia (there originally to support UN relief efforts) (Wilentz, 2008). Terrorist attacks occurred in the 1996 Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia, and the 1998 United States embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya. There was an attempted bombing at Los Angeles International Airport and other attempts of acts of terrorism during the 2000 millennium attack plots. In Yemen the USS *Cole* was bombed in October 2000, which the government associated with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terrorist network (Wilentz, 2008).

US responses to terrorist attacks included limited cruise missile strikes on Afghanistan and Sudan (August 1998), which failed to stop al-Qaeda's leaders and their Taliban supporters. Also in 1998, President Clinton signed the Iraq Liberation Act which called for regime change in Iraq because Saddam Hussein had possessed weapons of mass destruction, oppressed Iraqi citizens and attacked other Middle Eastern countries. (Jefferson, 1998) Al-Qaeda and other Islamic fundamentalist groups were not the only groups responsible for terrorism during this time.

In 1995, a domestic terrorist bombing took place at a federal building in Oklahoma City, which killed 168 people, and was then the biggest terrorist attack on US soil since Second World War. The perpetrators, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, objected to the federal government and sought revenge for the sieges at Ruby Ridge (1992) and Waco (1993). (www.cjonline.com). This is a serious fault which was committed by America and it is engaged in a war which has no end. It was the need of the hour that America should stop this war immediately for its own survival and for the survival of the world. America should launch social and economic development programmes to gain the favour of the people of these countries. To combat poverty and illiteracy is the need of the hour for these countries which will ultimately end rigidity among these people. In 1998, Clinton was impeached for charges of perjury and obstruction of justice that arose from lying about a sexual relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. He was the second president to have been impeached. The House of Representatives voted 228 to 206 on December 19 to impeach Clinton, (Peter, Juliet, 1998) but on February 12, 1999, the Senate voted 55 to 45 to acquit Clinton of the charges (Wilentz, 2008).

2001-present

At the beginning of the new millennium, the United States found itself attacked by Islamic terrorism, with the September 11, 2001 attacks in which 19 Islamists hijacked four transcontinental airliners and intentionally crashed two of them into the twin towers of the World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon. The passengers on the fourth plane, United Airlines Flight 93, revolted causing the plane to crash into a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. 2,976 people and the 19 hijackers perished in the attacks. These attacks were reactions to American constant fault line in its history. According to the 9/11 Commission Report, that plane was intended to hit the US Capitol Building in Washington. The twin towers of the World Trade Center collapsed, destroying the entire complex. The United States soon found large amounts of evidence that suggested that the terrorist group al-Qaeda, spearheaded by Osama bin Laden, was responsible for the attacks.

War in Afghanistan and Iraq

In response to the above mentioned attacks, under the administration of President George W. Bush, the United States (with the military support of NATO and the political support of some of the international community) launched Operation Enduring Freedom which overthrew the Taliban regime in Afghanistan which had protected and harbored bin Laden and al-Qaeda. With the support of large bipartisan majorities, the US Congress passed the Authorization for Use of Military Force against Iraq Resolution of 2002. Though necessary but entry into Afghanistan and Iraq are again American faults. With a coalition of other countries including Britain, Spain, Australia, Japan and Poland, in March 2003 President Bush ordered an invasion of Iraq dubbed Operation Iraqi Freedom which led to the overthrow and capture of Saddam Hussein. Using the language of 1998 Iraq Liberation Act and the Clinton Administration, the reasons cited by the Bush administration for the invasion included the spreading of democracy, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction(bbc.co.uk) (a key demand of the UN as well, though later investigations found parts of the intelligence reports to be inaccurate)(www.msnbc.msn.com) and the liberation of the Iraqi people.(Galbraith, 2003) This second invasion fueled protest marches in many parts of the world. Despite tougher border scrutiny after 9/11, nearly 8 million immigrants came to the United States from 2000 to 2005 – more than in any other five-year period in the nation's history.(www.usatoday.com) Almost half entered illegally (www.washingtontimes.com) oil by 2006, rising prices saw Americans become increasingly conscious of the nation's dependence on supplies of petroleum for energy, with President Bush admitting a U.S. "addiction" to oil (Bush, 2006). The possibility of serious economic disruption, should conflict overseas or declining production interrupt the flow, could not be ignored, given the instability in the Middle East and other oil-producing regions of the world. Many proposals and pilot projects for replacement energy sources, from ethanol to wind power and solar power, received more capital funding and were pursued more seriously in the 2000s than in previous decades. The 2006 midterm elections saw Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi become Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the highest ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government (Walsh, 2007).

Counter-terrorism

In addition to military efforts abroad, in the aftermath of 9/11 the Bush Administration increased domestic efforts to prevent future attacks, a new cabinet level agency called the United States Department of Homeland Security was created to lead and coordinate federal counter-terrorism activities. The USA PATRIOT Act removed legal restrictions on information sharing between federal law enforcement and intelligence services and allowed for the investigation of suspected terrorists using means similar to those in place for other

types of criminals. A new Terrorist Finance Tracking Program monitored the movements of terrorists' financial resources but was discontinued after being revealed by *The New York Times* (www.foxnews.com) Telecommunication usage by known and suspected terrorists was studied through the NSA electronic surveillance program. Since 9/11, Islamic extremists made various attempts to attack the US homeland, with varying levels of organization and skill. For example, in 2001 vigilant passengers aboard a transatlantic flight to Miami prevented Richard Reid from detonating an explosive device.

After months of brutal violence against Iraqi civilians by Sunni and Shi'ite terrorist groups and militias—including al-Qaeda in Iraq—in January 2007 President Bush presented a new strategy for Operation Iraqi Freedom based upon counter-insurgency theories and tactics developed by General David Petraeus. The Iraq War troop surge of 2007 was part of this "new way forward". (www.georgebush-whitehouse.gov) The George W. Bush administration also increased allegations implicating Iran and Syria, in the development of weapons of mass destruction. These two considered some other faults in addition to already committed faults in the American history.

Late 2000s Recession

In December 2007, the United States entered the longest post-second World War recession, (www.reuters.com) which included a housing market correction, a subprime mortgage crisis, soaring oil prices, and a declining dollar value (www.news.xinhunet.com). In February 2008, 63,000 jobs were lost, a 5-year record for a single month. (www.bbc.news.co.uk) In September 2008, the crisis became much worse beginning with the government takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac followed by the collapse of Lehman Brothers. (www.wikipedia.com)

This economic crisis was considered the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. (Elliott, 2008)-In November 2008, over 500,000 jobs were lost, which marked the largest loss of jobs in the United States in 34 years (bostonherald.com). The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that in the last four months of 2008, 1.9 million jobs were lost (www.bls.gov) by the end of 2008, the U.S. had lost a total of 2.6 million jobs, (Goldman, 2009) and the unemployment rate rose to 7.2% (www.bls.gov).

In the presidential election of 2008, Senator Barack Obama, having narrowly defeated Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic nomination, ran on a platform of "Hope and Change". On November 4, Obama became the first African American (www.guardian.co.uk & msnbc.com) to be elected President of the United States; he was sworn into office as the 44th President on January 20, 2009. During his first 100 days in office, Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a \$787 billion economic stimulus package aimed at helping the economy recover from the deepening worldwide recession. (WSJ.com & CNN) The act included increased federal spending for health care, infrastructure, education, various tax breaks and incentives, and direct assistance to individuals, (Bunkley, 2009) which is being distributed over the course of several years, with about 25% due by the end of 2009. The Obama administration also enacted additional economic programs designed to stimulate the economy, such as the Car Allowance Rebate System, (Andrews, & Dash, 2009) the Public-Private Investment Program, and the Automobile Industry Bailout. ([Huffington Post.Com](http://HuffingtonPost.Com)) In the third quarter of 2009, the U.S. economy expanded at a 2.2% annual pace, (Wallstreetblips.dailyradar.com) after contracting for four consecutive quarters. (DailyFinance.com)

However, the unemployment rate continued to rise to 10.1%, (www.Marketwatch.com & bls.gov.com) the highest level since 1983, and the underemployment rate continued to rise to 17.5%, the highest since records began being kept in 1994. (Leonhardt, 2009)

Early in his presidency, Obama also moved to change the U.S. war strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan. In February 2009, Obama announced his plan to decrease troop levels in Iraq, stating that all combat troops would be withdrawn from Iraq by August 31, 2010, and that as many as 50,000 would remain in Iraq to train, equip and advise Iraqi forces, help protect withdrawing forces and work on counterterrorism until December 31, 2011 (Mcclatchydc.com & Deyoung, 2009).

He also announced that same month that the amount of troops in Afghanistan would be boosted by 17,000. (Hodge, 2009) In December 2009, Obama announced that an additional 30,000 troops would be deployed to Afghanistan over a period of six months, (www.msnbc.msn.com) and also proposed to begin troop withdrawals 18 months from that date (www.msnbc.msn.com & youtube.com). The addition of troops in Afghanistan is another fault which may cause heavy damage to U.S. especially to its economy.

In foreign policy, the U.S. maintains ongoing talks, led by United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, with North Korea over its nuclear weapons program, as well as with Israel and the Palestinian Authority over a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; the Palestinian-Israeli talks began in 2007, an effort spearheaded by United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. (www.bbc.co.uk) China, holding an estimated \$1.6 trillion of U.S. securities, (www.reuters.com) is the largest foreign financier of the record U.S. public debt. (www.money.cnn.com) From above discussion it is clear that America should amend its ways. America still has a strong economy and superior defense technology than any other nation in the world. However it should work to eliminate poverty, hunger and illiteracy from the world. It should act like a friend in need a friend indeed.

Conclusion

From the above discussion it is very much clear that America committed many faults. However this is time to reconsider its faults and to envisage a new policy to help the needy and poor nations of the world and to help other nations to develop and combat with poverty, illiteracy, hunger, etc., etc., so that this world should become a heaven on earth.

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