

FOREWORD

The tumultuous era of cold war, with all its hot exchanges and moments of brinkmanship, has suddenly come to an end, 'not with a bang but a whimper!' From certain quarters, important as they are, there are biddings for a 'New World Order'. Others look upon the changing scenario with concern and suspicion. They are beginning to be haunted by approaching shadows of attempted global hegemony by the leftover superpower. The world has entered a crucial period of major transition in international relations.

While concern for the future is natural, this is also the time for a postmortem of the cold war era out of which the world is assuming to have emerged. The shadows of the past are bound to remain overcast on the horizon, for at least some time. Many of the actors would remain the same, although their respective roles may differ in the unfolding drama of emerging history. A deeper understanding of the nature, character and past roles of some of these actors is essential for a better understanding of the changing scene, as much as for developing fresh strategies to face new challenges. A peep into the past is bound to release some light for a better appreciation of the present and the future.

Ambassador Dr S. M. Koreshi has been engaged in an informed and reflective analysis of some of the major develop

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ments of the last decade. He has looked over the current world politics from the perspective of a Pakistani diplomat. He has also tried to observe the world around him through the eyes of a Muslim. This has brought a new freshness to his approach, along with making his studies relevant to the Pakistan policy makers. This approach cannot be dubbed as subjective. It is too presumptuous to claim real objectivity in matters human. I would submit that it is more realistic and definitely more scientific to openly spell out one's value premises, so that objective facts and subjective interpretations could be examined and evaluated explicitly. To hide one's subjective judgements under pseudo-objective formulations and keep value-premises implicit and unarticulated is highly deceptive if not dishonest. One may differ with certain observations and explanations of the author, but I for one have enjoyed his theses much more because he has chosen to make his value-premises and personal preferences explicit. And I compliment Dr Koreshi on his approach to world politics, which on the one hand is highly professional, and on the other hand also has a flavour that is distinctly personal.

As has been explained by him in his introduction to the present volume, most of the material contained in the present study has been published in leading newspapers and periodicals during the last few years. But the issues discussed and the analysis offered are of a more lasting value. It would have been a tragedy if this material had remained buried in newspapers and periodicals. I very much welcome the compilation of this useful material into a volume which could be of lasting usefulness to scholars, students and policy-makers. I hope the publication of this material in this new form by the Institute of Policy Studies would constitute a useful contribution to the foreign policy debate in the country and be helpful in clarifying some of the issues that are agitating the nation.

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Khurshid Ahmad