

### **The Evolution of the Role of Iran and Its Challenges**

After the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and breaking the links between Iran and the United States, the role of Iran in regional developments is perceived of great importance due to the geopolitical position of the country.

Iran's neighborhood with 15 countries and huge resources of oil and gas makes this position farther. Due to the political, security and geopolitical condition of Iran, it is not possible to solve the regional conflicts without the role of this country.

The present article will assess the cultural identity of the Islamic Revolution and emphasizing the Shiite character of the majority of Iranian people will examine the affects of this factor on Shiites in other countries. The idealistic and spiritual ideas which are the characteristics of all revolutions will also be analyzed.

### **Odious Debts, Iraqi Debts and Islamic Republic of Iran's Compensations**

After the removal of Saddam's regime, Iraq has turned into one of the most indebted states in the world. The crisis of Iraqi debts has contributed to the revival of the odious debts doctrine in international legal and financial circles. Some institutions are trying to evaluate the Iraqi debts in light of the odious debts doctrine and introduce them as illegitimate. The present article aims to assess the theoretical and historical context of this doctrine and to examine the literature shaped to connect this doctrine to the Iraqi debts.

Due to the facts that there are some baseless arguments trying to connect the issue of Iranian claims for war compensation for the eight year aggression of Iraq to the odious debts doctrine, the author will provide some legal reasons proving the baseless nature of these arguments.

### **An Assessment of the French Presidency of the European Union**

France took the Presidency of the European Union for the 12<sup>th</sup> time from July to December 2008. Occurrence of significant developments including the Georgia war and the threat of revival of the cold war and outbreak of one the biggest financial crises in world economy, made this period different and eclipsed the initial priorities of the French presidency.

The way of leadership by President Sarkozy was also among the peculiarities of this period making this presidency a very particular and different one not only from the other presidencies of the European Union but also with predecessors of Sarkozy in France.

The present article aims to examine the French presidency of the European Union.

### **The Paradigm of War on Terrorism and Human Dignity**

The time when the people of the world were witnessing the plane crashes to twin towers in New York, they did not know that the officials of the United States were adopting new global paradigm to fill the occurred security gap. Only hours after the attacks, the president of the United States introduced an evolution in international law. Five years later this new-born phenomenon was reflected at the military commissions. New bases were created within the paradigm of “War on Terrorism” and human dignity was retreated in favor of security.

In this paradigm the term of illegal warriors of enemy was created who deserved no dignity. Ban of torture as the strongest obligatory rule of human rights and humanitarian law was neglected. There have been lots of objections against this violation of human rights from law community but nothing has changed. The situation in Sin Kiang, Chechen and Gaza is implication of this paradigm. Adopting diplomatic measures and strengthening the rules of human rights and humanitarian law are possible ways to oblige violators to the legal rules.

### **Diplomatic Asylum**

The Developments in international relations and global affairs has affected the international law and evolved the concepts of this discipline. Asylum to diplomatic missions which takes place beyond the national territory of state’s authority is a subject of diplomatic law which is itself a component of international law. This phenomenon has emerged in different conditions and provoked the reaction of territorial states.

Although to give territorial asylum is among exclusive sovereign rights of the states and is rooted in historical and common law bases as well as connected with principles of human rights, giving asylum outside the territory and in diplomatic spaces is outside this principle and has witnessed a variety of interpretations and developments.

Some emphasized it as a right derived from inherent diplomatic immunity and related to that and others perceive it as misusing the diplomatic immunity and rejected the trans-territoriality of the sovereignty of states despite some regional conventions recognizing this right.

### **Humanitarian Law in International and Non-International Conflicts: Differences and Commonalities**

The general approach of human society particularly after the World War I has been to limit the war in international relations, but the actual fact is the continuation of using force in actions and reactions in international relations. This has encouraged the scholars and researchers of international law to emphasize the importance of the law of war and necessity for compiling and developing this law.

The aim was to determine the obligatory rules during war and conflict to minimize the casualties and ruins. The efforts to regulate the war operation are the basis and philosophy of law of armed conflict.

International armed conflicts and non-international armed conflicts are both include armed conflict and use of force with political aims. The present article is aimed at assessing the commonalities and differences of these two conflicts.

### **Nuclear Disarmament in Different Theories of International Relations**

The nuclear implosion in Hiroshima and Nagasaki gave birth to a new weapon and changed the conventional nature of strategic calculations. This new weapon played the main role in contemporary strategy after the World War II. The destructive nature of this weapon and strategic spill-over resulting from entering this weapon to a region has made the owners of this weapon to try their best to abandon others to obtain this weapon.

Conversely, states without this weapon initiated efforts aimed at disarmament and destruction of this weapon. That's why the term disarmament is almost as old as the term nuclear weapon.

Will nuclear disarmament really possible or remain as a utopian ideal? The current article aims to study the nuclear disarmament theoretically and to see what theories of international relations are appropriate to analyze the nuclear disarmament. Giving some evidences of international efforts and current trends, the author will consider the possibility of success for these efforts.

### **The International Court of Justice and Erga Omnes Obligations**

The International court of Justice (ICJ) as the main judicial pillar of the United Nations has dealt with several disputes and issued different verdicts as obligatory or advisory. These verdicts are of great importance for the parties of dispute and for all subjects of international law.

The ICJ has referred to some new concepts in its verdicts which are valuable in international law structure. Analyzing the verdicts and ideas of the court on these concepts in particular and on international law in general, would help us to better understand the concepts in international law.

Among the most prominent concepts of international law developed by ICJ is the concept of Erga Omnes obligations. The court has introduced this concept and has tried to determine the borders and extent of it. The concept of Erga Omnes obligations could be defined as the obligations of the states toward international community in general.

This article aims to assess the role of the ICJ in introduction and development of this concept related to general international order.

### **Japan, the United States and South Asia**

Japan as the world's second economic power located in Asia is capable of more important roles. The U.S. Policy towards Japan after the World War II gradually evolved from influence and dominance to cooperation and friendship in three decades.

The policy of paying compensation after the defeat of Japan has been always defined in light of economic interests of these two countries during the cold war. The invasion atmosphere of Japan in 1940s changed very soon. In 1980s the U.S. emphasized that understanding Japan internationally is necessary for getting Japan's foreign and economic policy.

Conducting this interaction requires special capacity due to the complexity of the culture and ambitions of this nation. This article is aimed at studying special dimensions of the U.S.-Japan Relations.

Translation: Khalil Shirgholami