



Kamikaze Rocks America

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Abstract: Many International companies have made huge layoff announcements. The Central banks across the world have pumped in \$80 billion to stabilize the markets. OPEC will keep oil prices within its target range of \$22 to \$28 a barrel. In India the government will not hike the oil prices, this should help stabilize the price front. The effort would wide is to avoid recession. In India equity markets, after an initial fall, seem to be stabilizing a bit. The Trend shows that the tragedy will not have a long – term economic impact on India mainly because of large inward looking domestic economy. Other sector like advertising, exports and software are also some bigger concerns for India. With MNCs talking about reducing their ad budget a week after the US crisis, advertising industry could well be hit. US also accounts for 20% of India's total export, which too is supposed to suffer in near future. Indian garment exporters are already having problems securing fresh orders from US despite September and October being peak months to meet Christmas and New year orders.

Keywords: Terrorist Attack, World Trade Centre, Afghanistan, Alquaeda, NATO.

Introduction

This paper entitled "*Kamikaze Rocks America*" discussing the terrorist attack of September 11,2001 on the twin towers of the world Trade center in New York and the pentagon in Washington in America, shifting grounds, economic implications, social implications, Afghanistan lies and conclusion explains the American strategy. The Kamikaze attacks on September 11 2001, the World Trade Centre building and at the Pentagon have shaken the countries world over and have forced them to believe the unbelievable. Both the economic and the military might of the most powerful country on the planet, have been crumbled and shown vulnerable to the rest of the world. With these attacks a new kind of enemy has emerged. Which the American President describes as the enemy of the 21st century. This enemy International Terrorism is supposed to be the

mastermind of a Saudi millionaire and leader of a terrorist group – Osama Bin Laden. He and his Islamic terrorist organization.

Al Qaeda (that seeks jihad against American troops in Saudi Arabia) are supposed to be behind this tragedy that killed thousands of innocent people. More than 5,000 people have died at the WTC attack alone. The American investigative agency FBI in major crackdown country wide has found enough evidence and proof linking these attacks to Osama bin Laden. As a response to this horrendous crime US is formulating a plan to attack his bases in Afghanistan and many nations have come forward with their support to US. Russian President Vladimir Putin described the attacks on WTC as terrible tragedy. Other countries like Germany, France, China, Palestine, Israel, India and European Union have given their full support to US plan of retaliation.



Shifting Grounds

The man behind these attacks is supposed to be hiding in Afghanistan. The Taliban regime of Afghanistan that has been hosting Osama bin Laden since last few years has denied handing him over to US and has threatened for more such attacks. On the other hand, US has decided to punish those involved in the attack and also those who harbour these attackers. In this war like situation US has offered a stark choice to the 15 Arab nations to either join the international coalition against terrorism of Al Qaeda and Taliban or to risk being isolated in the global conflict. Thus, in its first move it is isolating the terrorists and their harbourers from the rest of the world. All the 19 members of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) have given their full support to US and are ready for an attack. NATO members have activated the Article 5 of Washington Treaty, which considers an attack on member of the alliance as an attack on all. US has asked Pakistan for the use of its ports for a substantial military action against Landen's training camps in Afghanistan. The world diplomacy has also taken a new dimension. Countries like Russia and China who have never shared any warm relationships with US have also come forward to support the US retaliation.

Economic Implications

With the crumbling of World Trade Center's twin towers on September 11, 2001, the world economy also came down. The most direct and immediate effects were felt in the air travel, tourism and hospitality sector. Air Travel in America accounts for one percent of America's GDP. After these attacks there will be 50 per cent drop in air travel in

New York and Washington alone. The Central banks across the world have pumped in \$80 billion to stabilize the markets. OPEC will keep oil prices within its target range of \$22 to \$28 a barrel. In India the government will not hike the oil prices, this should help stabilize the price front. The effort would wide is to avoid recession. In India equity markets, after an initial fall, seem to be stabilizing a bit. The Trend shows that the tragedy will not have a long – term economic impact on India mainly because of large inward looking domestic economy. Other sector like advertising, exports and software are also some bigger concerns for India. With MNCs talking about reducing their ad budget a week after the US crisis, advertising industry could well be hit. US also accounts for 20% of India's total export, which too is supposed to suffer in near future. Indian garment exporters are already having problems securing fresh orders from US despite September and October being peak months to meet Christmas and New year orders.

Software sector remains India's biggest concern. America accounts for 75 per cent of the country's total software exports. Analysts expect a slowdown in the flow of orders from the US especially, since the American insurance, banking and finance sectors are recovering. Already India IT billionaires are seeing their wealth evaporate following the double blow of a technology meltdown and the aftermath of terrorist attacks. Wipro chairman Azim Premji lost more than a billion dollars after the September 11, 2001, attack on New York and Washington. N.R. Narayana Murthy's Infosys Technologies (India's second largest software exporter) has lost more than \$ 100 million.



Social Implications

Finally, it just took a number of air attacks on New York and Washington DC to ignite the feeling of hate crimes among the people of a country that has set an example in the past for accepting members of communities from every corner of the world. This myth was exploded when incidents of attacks on people of Asian community, especially Sikhs were reported. Asians of all nationalities have been clubbed together under the worrying and hold all category of the other – those subjected to hate (people belonging to the stock of Osama Bin Laden). The hate crime claimed its first victim when Balbir Singh Sodhi a sikh (like so many other Sikhs in the US) was mistaken for a Taliban follower because of his pagri and beard and was shot at. These people confront glares and shout from Americans. Attacks on Latinos, Chinese and Japanese are also occurring in some parts in the US. Though the administration – embassy and consulates have been taking up the issue of attacks on Asians with the authorities, yet a fear looms large over the community. The average American is ignorant of different communities and cultures of Asia. They recognize only skin colour and probably mix Asian and Arab features and don't know whether an Asian name is Muslim or not. On the other hand there is also a threat of religious violence erupting in countries inhabiting Muslims, since these attacks on America have been made by the perpetrators in the name of freeing the world from Jews, Christians and anti – Muslims.

What lies in afghanistan ?

War analysts warn that this coming war or attacks on Taliban or Osama Bin Laden in Afghanistan would not be an easy one. Since it does not involve launching of jets and missiles on any country but finding a specific person (that requires launching boots on the ground) in a country that has the most hostile terrain. Although Pentagon has many kinds of most advanced and “smart” gadgets, yet they are too heavy to lug around the afghan mountains. The last army to march successfully through Afghnaistan was led by Alexander the Great. In 1842, when a British army of 17,000 soldiers was forced to retreat back in the first Anglo Afghtan war, nobody survived except for one man – an army doctor. It is belived that the Afghan terrain of towering peaks and deep valleys (where it can take a week to walk a little distance) is very cruel and hostile. When the Soviet Union's army invaded Afghanistan in 1979 with all its might, it had to return cold and defeated after 10 years. Thus any military operation here must rely heavily on local allies who know where to find water, food and shelter. Un winters snow here falls often in blizzards which makes helicopter flights impossible.

Conclusion

The United States of America in this war against terrorism can launch a combined attack on Afgharistan with almost rest of the world supporting the alliance against Osama Bin Laden and Taliban. At the same time, American planners can consider the usefulness of main Afghan opposition, the Northern Alliance. The group known as Northern Alliance is a coalition of anti Taliban guerillas headed by the leader of the government driven from power by the



Taliban in 1996. Although it has only around 10,000 soldiers (compared with the Taliban's 40,000) and controls as little as 5% of Afghanistan, yet in the past few weeks, the alliance has shown signs of life. Its troops have claimed to have taken over more villages and provinces. Thus, U.S. can crate a new opposition to Taliban with the help of Northern Alliance under the leadership of exiled Afghan king Zahir Shah (a Pashtun). The real military and intelligence help must therefore come from Afghanistan's neighbours. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan who are crucial players in this fight against terrorism. As a consequence, US has to and will fight a war, though on many fronts. For diplomatic, financial and policing aims it can rely on its broad alliance. But on the question of military operations it has to rely on itself and on the delicate and shaky alliance in the region.

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