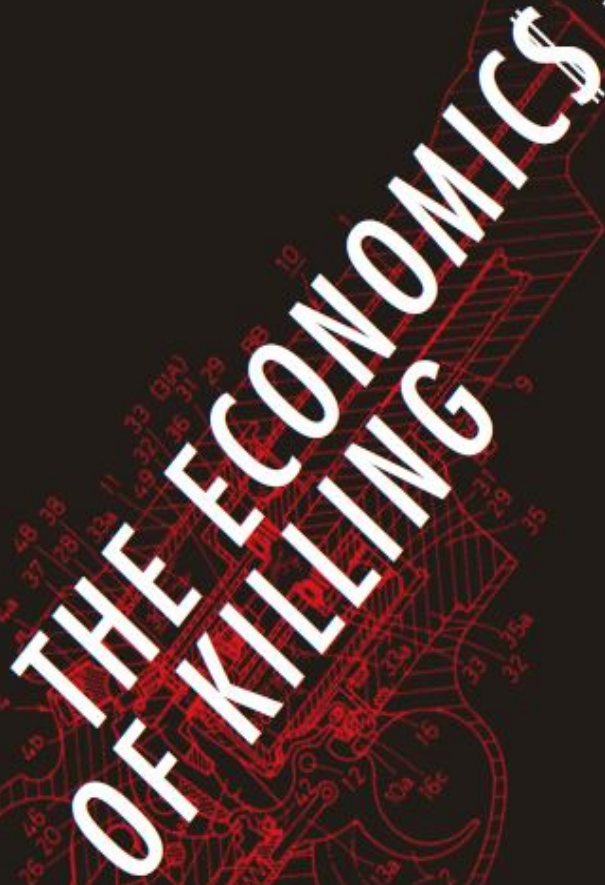


How the West Fuels War and
Poverty in the Developing World

THE ECONOMICS OF KILLING



VIJAY MEHTA

THE ECONOMICS OF KILLING

How the West Fuels War and
Poverty in the Developing World

VIJAY MEHTA



The Consequences of Attack on Iran

A special discussion with Vijay Mehta, Chair of Uniting for Peace and author of "The Economics of Killing: How the West Fuels War and Poverty in the Developing World"

Hur Hassnain

With the continuing violence and wars in Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, now we are hearing loud noises and threats of attack on Iran. There is a dire need to expose the bogus calls of war propaganda and work for a safer environment in the Middle East.

A detailed discussion was held with Vijay Mehta to examine the burning issue of the consequences of an attack on Iran.

Just after the protests outside the British Embassy in Tehran recently, William Hague, the UK Defence Minister put forward a plan to attack Iran (another Muslim country) which will open up another venue for the military to engage in future war mongering. These attacks are following the same pattern of accusing countries falsely for possessing Weapons of Mass Destruction as in Iraq's case and now accusing Iran of developing Nuclear Weapons.

Seymour Hersh, in *The New Yorker* of November 21, wrote: All of the low enriched uranium now known to be produced inside Iran is accounted for the recent International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report which provoked such outcry against Iran's nuclear ambitions, he continued, contained nothing that proved that Iran was developing nuclear weapons; so why there is a talk of stronger and more indiscriminate sanctions and ultimately a talk of military attack against Iran. There is no logic of sanctions being placed on Iran after the denial of IAEA, Vijay said.

This attitude of the western world is an example of the hidden agendas of working with Israel, he said. The reality is that Iran is surrounded by several nuclear weapon states like Israel, Pakistan, India and China. A war between the nuclear weapon states can have huge consequences in the loss of lives and destruction to infrastructure.

Highlighting the huge military spending being misused in the world he said only the US government spent a staggering \$687 billion on "defence" last year. Think what could be done with that money if it were put into hospitals, schools or to pay off foreclosed mortgages. What is required is a foreign policy which uses sanity to negotiate with Iran to overcome the present misunderstanding of Iran developing nuclear weapons.

The retiring US president Dwight D. Eisenhower famously took the opportunity of his farewell to the nation address in 1961 to warn his fellow countrymen of the danger in allowing too close a relationship between politicians and the defence industry. "This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience," he said. "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence,

whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

Vijay also shared that if the west starts a war with Iran a sovereign country, it will amount to a crime which Bush and Blair committed in conducting an illegal war on Iraq resulting in the death of hundreds of thousands of people. The global impact of attack on Iran will be catastrophic if Iran decides to block the shipping movements in the Gulf of Hormuz. It will create turmoil in the Middle East as never seen before. This intervention will destabilise the whole region including the neighbouring major nuclear weapon states with a possibility of nuclear explosion killing millions of people in one go.

Replying to the question of confronting the addiction of going from one war to another he said that we need to voice our concern as loud as possible to stop this sabre rattling of war situation and ask for sanity to prevail. Leaders of all the neighbouring countries should sit together for having a constructive dialogue to diffuse the situation. He said that Uniting for Peace is going to launch a new campaign '4D for World Peace' next year to influence the governments and policy makers of the world to move towards the possibility of reducing their military hardware for stopping the chance of further warfare. People are invited to sign-up for the global truce at the website to make their voice heard at UK, EU and UN levels, he added.

He said there is an immense need that the media should play a vital role in bringing peace instead of one dimensional war reporting and churning false narratives of war mongers. *"The world is over armed and underfed"*.

(Hur Hassnain is a Free Lance Reporter and a development entrepreneur. For feedback and comments email at hurhasnain@hotmail.com)