



THE MARIAN WIRE

VOLUME 4

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HIGHLIGHTS

Home, Sweet Home

Away From Home

Imagine a hypothetical home, a neighbourhood one lives in. One day some people who are visibly different, who identify differently as "big guys" on the basis of a taller height and muscular physique enter the neighbourhood. One is hesitant. Humans naturally fear the "other" but something sets humans apart from animals, they either act on that fear and engage and give rise to discriminatory/genocidal systems like apartheid or holocaust or they realise that unity in diversity makes stronger, happier communities. Even before one chooses between these options, the "other community", big guys, claim an exclusive right to that land. Their wish is grounded in the experience of being forced to leave their previous homeland.

In the silent chaos of avoiding conflict but wanting that land, there is an uneasy halt to things until an official from the State comes up and divides the neighbourhood among the two groups. The small guys are unhappy about losing "their home" and make attempts to gain what they lost. The big guys in their fear of losing "their home" and being mightier, strive to gain more.



U19 Girls Football Zonals - GOLD MEDALISTS



U19 Football Boys Zonals - QUARTER FINALISTS



1st position overall in K.R. Mangalam Interschool 'Hands On Minds On' Competition



Not So Sweet

It is the 5th of October, early morning when 5000 missiles, defying security measures, flooded Israel. The minutes that followed became witness to 600 civilian deaths, documenting the incident as one of the gravest acts of terrorism of this decade. Hezbollah, another militant organisation setup in Lebanon, extended its support with another few missiles. As a response, the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared war on Hamas, or better put, on the entirety of Gaza and Palestine. Thus, in its pursuit to “end terrorism” and defend itself, Israel has poured out 25,000 tonnes of explosives, synonymous to two Nuclear Bombs, on the Gaza strip since October 7.



Anything for “defence”. As with any geopolitical issue and especially when it is the Middle East, the Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the most sensitive and longest conflicts of the twentieth and twenty-first century. Therefore, many questions arise: How is it that one of the most advanced (and notorious) intelligence agencies of the world, MOSSAD, remained

clueless about the attack, in spite of warnings from Egypt and the United States? What is Israel defending itself from by relentless bombing? What is the context for the 5000 missiles that were shot on Israel?

Context

Palestine, especially its capital Jerusalem, is a sacred place for all the abrahamic religions, its demography included Muslim Arabs, Christian Arabs and Regional Jews. Palestine had been under three centuries of Ottoman rule wherein Muslims, Christians and Jews lived (relatively) peacefully. It is, however, important to understand that theological differences have rarely played in the conflict as much as ethnicity and land.

Zionism as a movement grew rapidly in Europe in the twentieth century, it propagated for an exclusive Jewish homeland in the Palestinian region. The first Zionist Conference was established in 1897, Switzerland, to come up with a plan to colonise Palestine, where “colonisation” was the exact word used to describe the purpose. This can be safely called the initial spark of the conflict but how can it be that a modern geopolitical issue exists and the Britishers aren't to blame?

Britain and France made an agreement with Palestinian Arabs promising them a separate state (after their anticipated victory in world war one) on the condition of rebelling against the Ottoman Sultan. They also fancied an agreement with American Jews to lure US support in the war, promising them too, a separate state in Palestine (Balfour Declaration). That is not, unfortunately, the end of this treason. Earlier on, France and Britain signed the “Sykes-Picot Agreement” in 1916 to promise each other a portion of Palestine. Psych, indeed!

After world war one, Palestine became a British colony. In this brief governance, British as it was, Palestine was ruled through division. That, it did by creating separate institutions for all the three religions making it harder for them to unite and rebel. Given the gradual weakening of the empire, Britain could not manage Palestine any longer and allotted its fate to the newly formed United Nations. It did what colonial powers love to do, draw lines of partition. In 1947, the two state solution was passed in the UN. This was in spite of disagreement by Palestinian Arabs who were the main stakeholders of this policy.

It is not just the year that Palestine shares with the Indian Partition but the related chaos and social turbulence as well. By the two state solution, the UN set the widespread assumption that Jews and Arab Muslims and Christians are innately different. They can never live on the same land, have essentially different aspirations from the region and can never unite irrespective of any attempts to create dialogue and harmony. History as well as events of dialogue like the Oslo Accords (which were actually promising) are open counterexamples to this opinion.

Britain and the UN failed both Jews and Arabs and therefore have lost the agency to comment on the contemporary issue without admitting and compensating for their own role in the conflict. Decades and three wars later, today, Israel has most of what used to be Palestine.

Terrorist, Who?

After Israel's victory in the first Israeli-Arab war, it illegally expanded its territories by a third of its initial size and 7 lakh Palestinians were displaced from their homes, either due to fear or by force. This came to be known as the Nakba, Arabic for catastrophe. If that was not enough, illegal Israeli settlements in Gaza, East Jerusalem and West Bank continued in large numbers since that time. The year 2002 became witness to the wall of The West Bank that over exaggerated the UN boundaries to accommodate Israeli settlers. In the name of defending itself, Israel has inadvertently killed civilians. Gaza had been the world's largest open-air prison; now, worse than that. Israel's defence minister, Yoav Gallant, best describes the plan, "I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel. We are fighting Human Animals, and we act accordingly". Even if one was to make the gory assumption that every person in Gaza is a terrorist including infants who are the majority of casualties in defence related bombings, why is the West bank being tortured? The West Bank, another part of Palestine (North-East of Israel), which had no



relation to the bombings of the 5th of October in any way, shape or form has faced 155 casualties by Israeli fire since October 7. Max Hastings, in conversation with Benjamin Netanyahu states in his book, 'Going To The Wars' (1970s), " Netanyahu said: In the next war, if we do it right we'll have a chance to get all the Arabs out... we can clear the West Bank, sort out Jerusalem". It appears as if Israel intentionally allowed those 5000 missiles to reach its land so that it can have the excuse to reciprocate that damage multiple fold, so that it can have that anticipated war. It is easily apparent that this war is not against terrorism, it is against Palestinian identity. This situation has become a historic irony for its persecution, dehumanisation, isolation in concentration camps (synonymous to Gaza and West Bank) of the Palestinian people, it is nothing short of a soft holocaust.

If both parties, Hamas (not synonymous with Palestine) and Israel (not synonymous with Jews) are offensive in nature then who is defending who? Isn't the Zionist state of Israel and the radical nationalism of Hamas, both, militant in nature? Aren't both terrorists?

Hamas has intentionally or unintentionally become a part of the plan to finish Gaza. Hamas gave Israel the licence to kill, and that is what it has been doing.

Any attempt to explain the pathetic situation in Gaza probably undercuts reality. Palestinians, jews and people around the globe are left to wonder about one question, when and whether both communities will enjoy a safe, peaceful HOME?"

~Ali Hussain

India, that is Bharat...

Like the title states, all of this, starts with an invite. The invitation in question is the official invitation to G20, where the current President of India Droupadi Murmu was referred to as 'President of Bharat'. This sparked conversation around the idea that maybe India would be now referred to as 'Bharat'. This has opened the floor to a lot of debate as people are talking about the idea that we, as citizens should



not use the terms Bharat, India or Hindustan interchangeably. The idea that the whole population would have to change every document, every identification card in an instant. People also feared that changing India's name to Bharat would be quite controversial since it's named after King Bharat from Hindu mythology or 'Bharatvarsha' which is one of the principal kingdoms of the Aryavarta according to the Vedas. This would prove to be a threat to one of India's core beliefs - secularism. But many rejoiced at the fact that India could get rid of a constant

reminder that India was colonized by the British. That, with this change, we Indians or 'Bharatiyo', will be fully embracing our pre-colonial roots while abandoning traces of the colonial mindset. These fires had more fuel poured into them as this very idea of changing the name India to Bharat was brought up again in the special Parliament session of September 18th to 22th, there were no conclusions to be drawn upon. This was enough to confirm people's suspicions that the ruling government was, in fact, trying to make the name change official. After all of that is said and done, we can draw the conclusion that people at the proposition simply want to be in touch with their roots while people in the opposition come from a place of concern, where they truly want India to be a country people can feel safe in and they want to preserve the core beliefs of the constitution.

~R. Padmalakshmi

Delhi's AQI Going Broke

The term "pollution" describes the intrusion of substances into the earth's atmosphere that have a negative influence on human health, the standard of living, or the ecosystems' ability to function as they should. Although it is difficult to pinpoint a single type that poses the greatest harm to health, a significant number of pollution-related health issues seem to be caused by pollution in the air.



Prior to Diwali, the National Capital's air quality index plummeted, prompting the declaration of an air emergency along with broadcast of warnings and public health guidelines, Delhi's government and elementary schools have closed as a result of the deteriorating air quality. Schools in Delhi will be closed until November 18, 2023 due to the city's persistently high pollution levels, as announced by Delhi's Education Minister, Atishi Singh on Saturday. "As pollution levels continue to remain high, primary schools in Delhi will stay closed till 18th November. For Grade 6-12, schools are being given the option of shifting to online classes," she announced on the social media app, X.

There could be several factors that could be blamed for the rising air pollution levels in Delhi. Most people are quick to blame Fireworks and crackers, But since the pollution reached its peak even before Diwali, What gives? The simple answer is- transportation, waste burning and our excessive dependence on fossil fuels. In March 2023, there were approximately around 1.22 Crore Privately owned cars in Delhi, this number is steadily increasing and increasing along with it is the levels of pollution

that we generate every year. Most people have simply been too frightened to use public transport, which leads to more privately owned vehicles on the road leading to more air pollutants, alongside stubble burning in fields across Haryana and Punjab. leads to this hazardous toxic air. The NCR is part of a large airshed surrounding Delhi that is affected by the extreme air pollution that is detrimental to human health. This includes locations in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Noida, and even Alwar (Rajasthan).

In a letter to Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai asked him to forbid the entry of cars from neighboring states in the Delhi-NCR that do not comply with BS-VI standards into Delhi. Additionally, he asked the environment ministers of the neighboring states to convene in an emergency. The Chief Secretaries of the impacted states have also been asked to respond by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which has instructed them to take prompt corrective action and present a report on their actions to the tribunal. In a statement, NGT stated that in order to guarantee improved air quality for the locals, prompt action is needed for the prevention and control of air pollution in these cities.

Additional precautions which the citizens can follow are to avoid burning crackers on Diwali, to use more public forms of transport rather than private vehicles, and keep waste to a minimum. and instead contribute to our nature and the environment of Delhi, by keeping yourself aware of the situation, help our Delhi to make it a cleaner place.

~Atifa Shahbaz

World Mental Health Day October 10

On the occasion of world mental health day, the theme of which revolved around the concept of "Mental Health is a Universal Human Right". We, at the Marian Wire decided to survey a group of students through google forms and ask them about the day to day challenges they have to face as a student, and we would like to share our interpretations of how one could combat their daily struggles in relation to academics in the form of a few articles we find resourceful. We highly encourage you to give these a read. Even if you yourself do not find yourself suffering from these challenges, maybe you could help someone that does. Remember to take breaks, set realistic/short term goals and take care of yourself!



https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q8_zKH2BH7K2Q9i09qR-WqEmQWmmziE9H2I6k5mcw6c/edit?usp=sharing

Tremors from Below



A catastrophic 5.7-magnitude earthquake that devastated Nepal on November 3, 2023, left a trail of ruin in its wake. About 300 kilometers from the capital, Kathmandu, was the isolated western region of Jajarkot, where the earthquake's epicenter was situated. Much of the nation felt the tremors, as well as India.

In addition to causing severe damage to homes, schools, and other buildings, the earthquake triggered landslides. There have been more than 150 casualties. Given that search and rescue teams had a difficult time reaching many of the other isolated areas which the earthquake affected, the death toll was likely greater. The earthquake was the most severe one to hit Nepal since 2015, when two powerful earthquakes left over 22,000 people injured and nearly 9,000 dead. The country is vulnerable to frequent earthquakes due to its location along the seismically active Himalayan fault line.

The massive amounts of destruction could be equated to the shallow fault lines, vulnerable infrastructure as well as the lack of preparedness in Nepal. The shallow fault lines lead to a more intense shaking caused by the seismic waves, along with the traditional and non-earthquake resistant materials used in Nepal's infrastructure and buildings. Also the fact that Nepal is a developing country and hence is not ready for disaster mitigation.

Even then, international relief organizations and the Nepalese government came together to provide aid to the earthquake victims. Members of the rescue team looked for survivors and helped those in need by giving them food, water, and medical attention. Additionally, measures to reconstruct damaged infrastructure have been announced by the government.

The Nepal earthquake caused widespread devastation and loss of life. Even then, reconstruction efforts are ongoing and the country remains resilient.

~Pratyush Singh

If you solve this, mail us your solution at [marianwire@gmail.com!!!](mailto:marianwire@gmail.com)

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Highlights

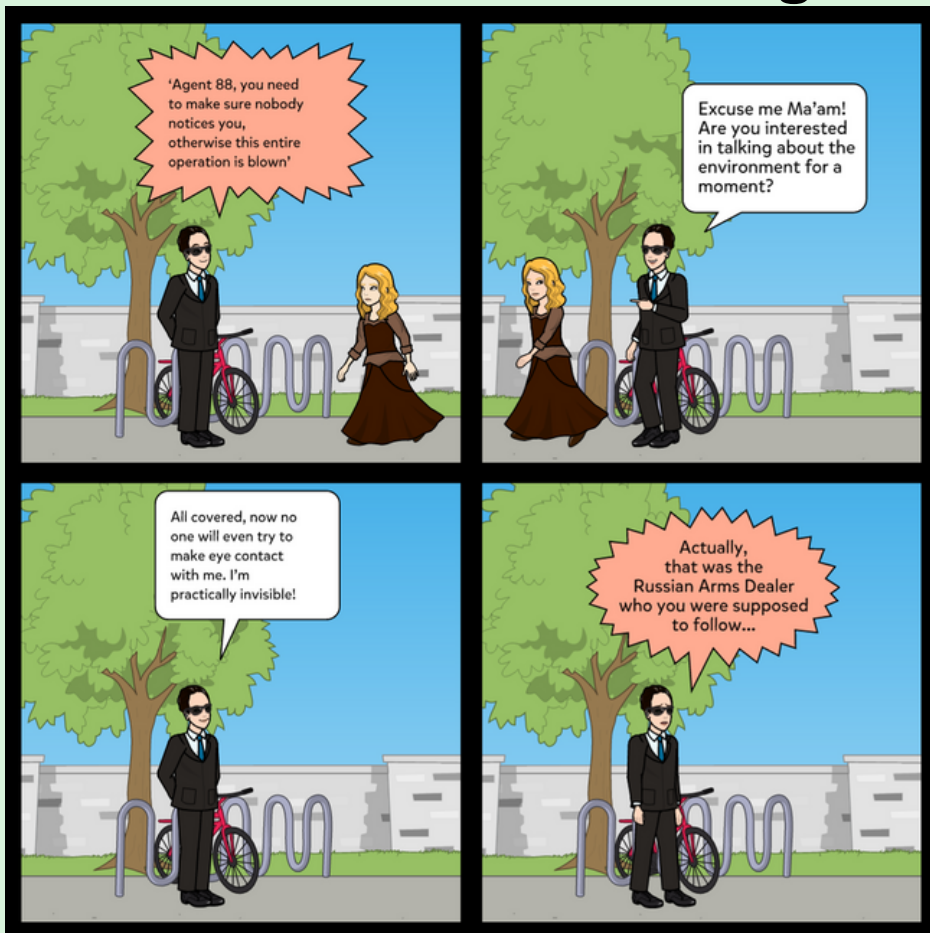


Fundraiser Organized by the Citizen Empowerment Department



Class X- Trip to Mussoorie

So much for Climate Change...



~Fariq Azim

Contact us at marianwire@gmail.com

ABOUT US

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