

Gaza Storm

has turned the tide



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**EXCLUSIVE
OPINION**

The United States had established global dominance with a soft image and imposing authority, maintaining its power by keeping a distance from others.

The resistance against the dominators was fearless and uncompromising; it rose and progressed. Operation Al-Aqsa Storm shattered the shining example of America's prestige and authority, delivering irreparable blows to the dynamics of the previous soft and hard order. Order and transformation do not happen spontaneously; they are constructed through proactive actions. If we do not realize the correct foundation of principles, goals, and interests through cooperation, promotion, and dynamic engagement, the wounded hegemony will actively guide the transformations among the ruins toward a new order with a renewed language and explicit goals and actions.

This article comprises three sections. Firstly, we will identify the previous order, examining the thoughts and behaviors that governed the world. Subsequently, by reviewing reactions to the previous order, we will narrate the story of the conflict between the dominator, the dominated, and the disruptor (hegemony, oppression, and resilience). Then, from within that understanding, we will discuss how to seize the opportunities of this era for proactive architecture, finally warning how threats and negligence might again impose the danger of a new order, just like a century ago.

Hegemonic order: A blend of prestige and authority

The current historical order is a fusion of prestige and authority, coupled with a sense of legitimacy and power. Over the centuries, the West followed a path characterized by the expansionist agenda of ruthless colonialism on one hand, and the other, self-centered ideological thoughts. Whenever the balance of power shifted or a new self-centered ideological thought emerged, the self-serving spirit of aggression would prevail, imposing dominance over others. Fatigued from wars and reluctant reconciliations, self-centeredness would retreat, giving rise to a situation called "global order" through a facade of compromise. Thus, each era of the order consists of two pillars: a balance of forces and reconciliation of ideologies; one providing a necessary common understanding for accepting soft relations, and the other ensuring the hard relations to keep the situation in check.

The post-Soviet order aimed for a power that sought to maintain its stability by keeping a distance, and subordinates willing to submit, either willingly or forcibly, driven by the desire for prestige or the fear of authority. Two world wars and a Cold War shaped the prevailing order: soft prestige with the rhetoric of democracy, human rights, freedom, and trade; and hard authority with demonstrations of nuclear capabilities, military alliances, political coups, and economic treaties. Soft prestige accommodated ideologies, while hard authority maintained discipline, ensuring that the dynamics did not spiral out of control. America

envisioned its leadership over the world for the next hundred years through a combination of freedom rhetoric and the image of a superpower. In this way, political coups guaranteed democracy, war crimes ensured human rights, and economic sanctions safeguarded free trade.

This continuum of contradictory behaviors not only has its roots in ideologies but also reveals that there is no inherent contradiction in the history of these actions! John Locke sees the end of a state of war as an exit from the natural state by accepting a social contract whose authority must protect the assets of civil society. Anyone outside the civil state of nature has no right to security and participation, even if they are slaves submitting to absolute power. With this situation, it is not surprising that the shareholders of slaveholding companies are called the fathers of freedom and the contradiction does not seem amusing. With this description, when the veto power in the Security Council aligns with despots and discriminatory freedom for a uniformity contract of global civil society, resolutions against technology, coups against democracy, and silence in the face of chemical bombings become the natural state.

The Zionist regime serves as a prominent example to understand these relations; on one side, it is introduced as a "shining example of democracy," and on the other, it takes on the appearance of the world's fourth-largest army to recreate the soft and hard relations of the hegemonic order in the global arena. The credibility of the global order's prestige is also

clearly tested here: the same actors who, in the first act, cry out against peaceful scientific activities through resolutions or shed tears for freedom in the face of an incident, in the second act, instead of resolutions, they take souvenir photos with the worst bombers and commemorate the agents of hospital bombings. Here, Jürgen Habermas, in the role of John Locke, steps in to warn against judging child killers. Yes, resolutions and tears are for the preservation of the assets of civil society, and indigenous nations in the natural state have no right to complain about misconduct!

Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and the resilience of Gaza shattered this deceptive prestige and false authority, shaking the foundations of the current global order. Hegemony had constructed a strategic depth with a deceptive prestige and false authority that gained worldwide support through either terror or willingness. Part of the grandeur of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm was in its soft conquests in the hearts and minds of people worldwide, shattering the foundations of the global order in their minds and extending the alignment of right and wrong to the streets worldwide. The hard conquest of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm brought irreversible blows to the current world order, but the soft conquest of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm planted an undeniable belief against the prevalent beliefs supporting the global order in the hearts of tired and strained people. Thus, examining the historical trend of events clarifies how the soft conquest of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm is historically more significant than its hard conquest.

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The current change in the global order benefits all independent and free republics and must be directed towards establishing the foundations of a just global order with faith in the power of free nations.

An Israeli tank burns after it was hit by Palestinian fighters infiltrating areas of southern Israel, at the Israeli side of Israel-Gaza border, on October 7, 2023.

REUTERS

