

The Post-Cold War United States: A Looming Stone for This Goliath

O. O. Thompson^{[a],*}

^[a]Department of Communications and General Studies, College of Agricultural Management & Rural Development, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria.

*Corresponding author.

Received 12 February 2014; accepted 25 May 2014
Published online 30 June 2014

Abstract

Since the end of the cold war, analyst thought that the United States was ready to go into retirement from International troubled waters and sleep with two eyes closed, however this is not to be as the most powerful nation was plunged into another conflict which is fought against an unknown enemy within and outside its shores. While some call these faceless enemies Islamist Militants and International Terrorist, these groups and their appealers prefer to call themselves freedom fighters or Jihadist. The paper examines the aftermath of the Cold War and the various challenges and threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the United States and its allies as well as a solution to the recurring attacks on this Goliath, its satellites, agents, Institutions and Citizens across the globe. The paper uses historical and descriptive method of study. The paper concludes that if this Goliath must survive the threat of a looming Stone, then it must tread softly.

Key words: Goliath; Looming stone; Post- cold war; United States

Thompson, O. O. (2014). The Post-Cold War United States: A Looming Stone for This Goliath. *Canadian Social Science*, 10(5), 106-113. Available from: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/css/article/view/4314>
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/4314>

INTRODUCTION

In the aftermath of the World War II, it was certain that the United States and the USSR would emerge as two world's dreaded nations but the relationship between

the two nations bludgeoned into the Cold War. World War II devastated most of the existing major actors. In their place, the United States emerged as a military and economic superpower and the leader of one power pole. The Soviet Union, though incredibly damaged, emerged as leader of the other pole. The USSR never matched the United States economically, but the Soviets possessed a huge conventional armed force, a seemingly threatening ideology, and, by 1949, atomic weapons. The East-West Axis was established (Rourke, 2003, p.37). Thomas V. DiBacco et al (1992) wrote that the cold war was not a direct confrontation. It is rather, a battle of diplomacy, of propaganda, and of nerves. The Cold War was a sustained state of political and military tension between powers in the Western Bloc (the United States with NATO and others), and powers in the Eastern Bloc, (the Soviet Union (USSR) and its allies in Warsaw Pact). Historians have not fully agreed on the dates, but 1947–1991 is common. It was “cold” because there was no large-scale fighting directly between the two sides (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War). Joseph S. Nye Jr. posits that:

The hostility was so intense that many expected armed conflict between the superpowers. Fighting occurred, but it was on the peripheries and not directly between the United States and the Soviet Union. The Cold War lasted four decades, from 1947 to 1989. The height of the Cold War was from 1947 to 1963, when there were few serious negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union. There were not even any summit meetings between 1945 and 1955 (Joseph, 2003)

It is believed that it was the policy reform of Mikhail S. Gorbachev known as *Glasnost* and *Perestroika* that acted as a thaw and nullifier of the tension which eventually led to the end of the war after some pockets of revolutions in the Soviet Union. Thus by the summer of 1989, the Eastern European States were given more degree of freedom. Hungary allowed East Germans to escape through its border into Austria. The exodus of East Germans put enormous pressure on the East German government as the Eastern European Government no

longer had the nerve or Soviet backing to put down demonstrations. In November, the Berlin Wall was pierced—a dramatic conclusion to a crescendo of events occurring over a very short period. The Cold war had ended. No wonder, President Bush Sr., proclaimed his hope for a New World Order in classically Wilsonian terms:

We have a vision of a new partnership of nations that transcends the cold War. A partnership based on consultation, cooperation, and collective action, especially through international and regional organizations. A partnership limited by principle and the rule of law and supported by an equitable sharing of both cost and commitment. A partnership whose goals are to increase democracy, increase prosperity, increase the peace, and reduce arms.

It is certain that with this statement, the Commander in Chief of the United States was optimistic that it was time to soft pedal and militarily slack a bit, however, this was not to be as the development in the Gulf necessitated the United States through the United Nations resolution 678 adopted in 1990 after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which in the operative part of the resolution 'authorises' all member states cooperating with Kuwait to use 'all necessary means' to force Iraq to implement the Council's resolution and restore International peace and security in the region (Bright Bazuaye, 2005). Robert Higgs puts the cost of the war at about \$180 billion and explained that the majority of the cost bear by the citizens. This was a multilateral action, though, but the United States bore the greatest share of the cost of prosecuting the operation. It can therefore be said that the US launched itself on an interventionist mission that since then angered some groups in the Arab World who had already been beleaguered by the United States support for the State of Israel. It is the threat of terrorist attacks that has now created a general feeling of insecurity among Americans both at home and abroad. (Erhagbe, 2005)

It is necessary to note here that the United States has been active in South America, Europe, Africa, middle and Far East, however attacks against the United States seem to emanate mainly from the Arab World, even the one outside the Arab World are believed to have been hatched and planned from there. No wonder, there was the bombing of the Khobar Towers, Saudi Arabia on June 25, 1996 at the time when the towers were used as quarters for foreign military personnel. A huge truck-bomb was detonated contiguous to Building number 131, an eight-story structure housing United States Air Force personnel from the 4404th Wing (Provisional), primarily from a deployed rescue squadron and deployed fighter squadron. In all, nineteen U.S. servicemen were killed and four hundred and ninety-eight (Ukaz, 1996) of many nationalities were wounded. Although al-Qaeda has been described by some sources as the likely culprit, the official June 25, 1996 statement by the United States named members of *Hezbollah Al-Hejaz* (Party of God in the Hijaz) as responsible.

1. THE WARNING OF A LOOMING STONE

The beginning of the supposedly 'Looming Stone' is said to have begun in 1998 declarations against the United States of America by Osama Bin Laden called 'Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders'. He also denounced America's occupation of the "lands of Islam...in the Arabian peninsula". He called the Americans "Pagan" and irrevocably called "on every Muslim who believe in Allah and wishes to be rewarded to comply with Allah's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it" (Elshtain, 2003, p.3). In Bin Laden's declaration of war against the United States, he disdains any distinction between Americans in uniform and those going about daily life. In his claims as he succinctly puts:

To kill the Americans and their allies—civilians and military—is an individual duty for every Muslims who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it, in order to liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy mosque [Mecca] from their grip, and in order for their armies to move out of all the lands of Islam, defeated and unable to threaten any Muslim, God willing, America's end is near (Elshtain, p.5)

The consequence of this statement was ensuing attacks on America's intent in the Sudan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco demonstrating an unrelenting orchestrated a threat to the United States. According to the State Department's pattern of Global Terrorism, 2002 reports, from December 1992 to the 11 September, 2001 World Trade attacks, about four confirmed attacks were known to have been carried out by the Al-Qaeda (CRS, 2004). There were also numerous attempted attacks that were disrupted, including the failed attempt to assassinate Pope John Paul II in 1994; failed assassination attempt on President Clinton during a visit to the Philippines and to bomb a dozen US trans-pacific airline flights; there was also a simultaneous attempt to bomb the Los Angeles International and operations against US and Israeli terrorists visiting Jordan for millennium celebrations in 1999 (Elshtain, p.5). However, Islamist attacks in general had tipped that. For most traditional wars are fought across borders or territories, hence the Islamist and Al-Qaeda thought it wise to take the war to the territory of their enemy.

The most dramatic demonstration of the terrorist threat against their arch-enemy was manifested in the attack against the World Trade Centre in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington DC on 11 September, 2001. The incident took over five thousand lives. The impact of the terror attacks on Americans and on people around the world is highlighted in many places. Robert J Samuelson's view is that there has been an end of illusion. He further put it thus; "what was destroyed was not just the World Trade Centre and part of the Pentagon but also Americans' dreamlike feeling [of being] insulated from the rest of the world" (Samuelson, 2001, p.27). As George W. Bush Jr

rightly captured the historic importance of that day:

On September the 11th, enemies of freedom committed an act of war against our country. Americans have known wars but for the past 136 years, there have been wars on foreign soil, except for one Sunday in 1941. Americans have known casualties of war-but not at the centre of a great city as a peaceful morning. Americans have known surprise attacks but never before on thousands of civilians. All of this was brought upon us in a single day and night fell on a different world, a world where freedom itself is under attack....(Bush, 2001)

Pope John Paul II described the scenario as “unspeakable horror”. According to a Nigerian newspaper:

This attack is a dark irrational combination of hate-the fatherland and infantile fantasies of rebellion...It is a desire to force America out of the middle East and drive Israel into the sea....(Punch, 2001)

President G.W. Bush captured the essence of the attack when he said “freedom was attacked this morning and freedom will be defended.” On September 20, 2001, he made it clear that the war against terrorism was not a total war, not a holy war, not an attack on religion. “I want to speak tonight directly to Muslims throughout the world,” the president stated. He furthered stated:

We respect your faith. Its practiced freely by many millions of Americans, and by millions more in countries that America counts as friends. Its teachings are good and peaceful, and those who commit evil in the name of Allah blaspheme the name of Islam. The terrorist is traitors to their own faith, trying, in effect, to hijack Islam itself. The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends; it is not our Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that support them. (Elshtain, 2003, p.63)

Subsequently, the US had to militarily intervene first in Afghanistan and later Iraq (Pillar, 2001). Though, the Bush administration succeeded in ousting the Taliban government and Saddam Hussein but this later precipitated the increase in the attack on Americans than never before.

In 2009, there was a shooting which was a jihadist mass murder that took place on November 5, 2009, at Fort Hood near Killeen, Texas. Nidal Malik Hasan, an U.S. Army major and psychiatrist, fatally shot thirteen people and injured more than thirty others (McClosey, 2009). It was the worst shooting ever to take place on an American military base. Several individuals believed the attack was a terrorist attack. Though, the United States Department of Defense and federal law enforcement agencies was quick to have classified the shooting as an act of workplace violence.

Hasan was shot and as a result, paralysed from the waist down. He was arraigned by a military court on July 20, 2011 and was charged with thirteen counts of premeditated murder and thirty-two counts of attempted murder under the Uniform Code of Military Justice(http://article.wn.com/view/2009/11/13/Defense_lawyer_Fort_Hood_suspect_may_be_paralyzed_12/). It

should be noted that reports in the media had revealed that a Joint task Force had been aware of the electronic mails between Hassan and the Yemen-based Imam Anwar al-Awlaki, who has been declared by the national Security Agency as a security threat and some of his colleagues had also noticed his radicalization and revolutionary mood at that period. His court-martial began on August 7, 2013. He was found guilty on all 13 counts of premeditated murder and thirty-two counts of attempted premeditated murder on August 23, 2013, and was sentenced to death on August 28, 2013 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Hood_shooting).

The Washington Times of 2012 wrote that The US Government has declined requests from survivors and family members of the slain to categorise the Fort Hood shooting as an act of terrorism, or motivated by militant Islamic religious convictions. In November 2011, a group of survivors and family members filed a lawsuit against the United States government for negligence in preventing the attack, and to force the government to classify the shootings as terrorism. The Pentagon has argued that charging Hasan with terrorism is not possible within military justice and that even having the government classify the shootings as terrorism would harm the ability of the military prosecutors to sustain a guilty verdict against Hasan.

A month after the Ford Hood Shooting was the failed attempt to blow up a Detroit-bound transatlantic flight on December 25, 2009 by a Nigerian Muslim; Abdulfarouk Umar Abdulmutallab trained in Yemen. He confessed to US authorities that he had trained in Yemen, home base for Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. He said he was influenced by al-Awlaki, who was killed Friday January 14, 2014 by an air strike that President Obama called a “major blow” (video) to al Qaeda’s most dangerous franchise (Oseghale, 2014).

On May 2, 2011, the United States president announced that Osama Bin Laden has been killed in a military base in Pakistan. And one would be hopeful that the death of the world’s most wanted man would signal the end or a reduction to America’s threat, but this appears to be the beginning. Some erstwhile American antagonist such as Muhammad Gadhafi and Hosni Mubarak in the Maghreb have also been gagged.

A panorama into the motivation of the terrorists against America indicates that the adversaries of America are against what they see as America’s interventionist and imperialist presence in the Arab world. They abhor America’s role in Saudi Arabia and support for Zionism, which is Israel against Palestinian (McCallie, 2002). The terrorist sees the struggle against America as one of Islam against infidels. Some basic questions are; should America return to its isolationism? If the US pulls out of the Arab world, will the terrorist stop attacking the US and its allies? Will countries like Iran and North Korea

halt their nuclear programmes? Will China stop hacking the US intelligence archive? And will the US enemies within America stop their resentments? Can the US avoid stepping on 'peoples' toes while protecting free people round the world? Can the US ever sleep with two eyes closed in this 21st century? And finally can be the Goliath (United States) escape a stone?

It appears as if the answers to the questions above may be one sided coin, it appears as if the symbol of the United States power, the Head of State is also threatened. In a Nigeria Newspaper report:

Two bullets have been found at the White house, one of which struck a protective window when it was fired....The casings were found on the grounds during a probe launched after gunshots were fired nearby late last week. The US Parks Police now say it is searching for a 21-year old man, Oscar Ramiro Ortega, over the shooting. The bullets have not yet been conclusively connected to the shooting; the Secret Service told AFP....An exterior of the White House is ongoing (The Nation, 2011).

William and others (2011) reported that on May 1, 2010, there was a planned terrorist attack which was foiled when two street vendors discovered a car bomb and alerted a New York Police Department (NYPD) patrolman to the threat after they spotted smoke coming from a vehicle. It was reported that the bomb had been ignited, but failed to explode, and was disarmed before it caused any casualties.

Two days later federal agents arrested Faisal Shahzad, a 30-year-old Pakistan-born resident of Bridgeport, Connecticut, who had become an United States citizen in April 2009. He was arrested after he had boarded Emirates Flight 202 to Dubai at John F. Kennedy International Airport. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Times_Square_car_bombing_attempt). The CNN Wire Staff reported that:

The court documents show Shahzad apparently continued to have contact with Pakistan upon his return to the United States, receiving a series of 12 phone calls originating from his country of birth in the days leading up to the incident -- five of which were made on the same day he bought the Nissan Pathfinder used in the attempted attack Saturday night. Those phone calls ceased just three days before the failed bombing, the documents show. (CNN Wire Staff, 2010)

The United States Attorney General Eric Holder said that Shahzad's intent had been "to kill Americans"(Ibid.) Shahzad was charged in federal court in Manhattan on May 4 with attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction and other federal crimes related to explosives. More than a dozen people were arrested by Pakistani officials in connection with the plot. Holder said the Pakistani Taliban directed the attack and may have financed it.

Professor Fouad Ajami, a MacArthur Fellowship winning, Lebanese-born American university professor and writer on Middle Eastern issues and currently a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution wrote:

This is a long twilight war, the struggle against radical Islamism. We can't wish it away. No strategy of winning "hearts and minds," no great outreach, will bring this struggle to an end. America can't conciliate these furies. These men of nowhere—Faisal Shahzad, Nidal Malik Hasan, the American-born renegade cleric Anwar Awlaki now holed up in Yemen and their likes—are a deadly breed of combatants in this new kind of war. Modernity both attracts and unsettles them. America is at once the object of their dreams, and the scapegoat onto which they project their deepest malignancies. (Ajami, 2010)

Andrew and Declan (2010) reported that the then Secretary of State said after the incidence that "The US has stepped up pressure on Pakistan to attack militant hideouts in the tribal belt in recent days, particularly North Waziristan. Using unusually belligerent language, the US secretary of state. [sic]" They further said she warned of "very severe consequences" if a successful attack was linked to Pakistan." In an interview with a television station in the United States, the astute Secretary of state said "the US wants more, expects more from the Pakistani authorities. We've made it very clear that if, heaven forbid, an attack like this that we can trace back to Pakistan were to have been successful, there would be very severe consequences," she said. (<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/may/09/times-square-bomb-pakistani-taliban>)

The FBI website reported that after his arrest he had recently received bomb-making training in Pakistan. He admitted that he had brought the Pathfinder to Times Square and attempted to detonate it. He also admitted that if he had not been arrested he would have attempted to detonate another bomb in New York City two weeks later (<http://www.fbi.gov/newyork/press-releases/2010/nyfo100510.htm>). He was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty on October 5, 2010.

The Reuters of March 3, 2012 revealed that the Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula claimed to have killed a CIA Official in an attack on American Security Trainers in Aden governorate in Yemen.

In less than a year, on the night of 11th September 2012 - a heavily armed group of between one hundred and twenty-five and one hundred and fifty gunmen attacked the American diplomatic mission at Benghazi, in Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and another diplomat. Several hours later in the early morning of the next day, a second assault targeted a nearby CIA annex in a different compound about one mile away, killing two embassy security personnel. Ten others were injured in the attacks which were strongly condemned by the governments of Libya, the United States, United States Western allies and many other countries throughout the world.

At various times between September 11 and 17, United States diplomatic missions in the Middle East, Asia, and Europe were subject to protests and violent attacks as a result of the release of a video "Innocence of Muslims" which is believed to have been produced by some Coptic

Christians in the United States. On August 6, 2013, it was reported that the U.S. had filed criminal charges against several individuals, including militia leader Ahmed Abu Khattala, for alleged involvement in the attacks (Charles, 2013). Though a new report finds out that the attack on the diplomatic Mission at Benghazi was avoidable and on the contentious issue of whether it was the sole role of the Al Qaeda or other terrorist organizations in the attack on the diplomatic mission, it is reported that the committee believe that individuals affiliated with "many such groups had participated in the attack but that none of them appeared to have planned or led the assault. The report found that among the many terrorist groups with which individual attackers had some affiliation were Ansar al-Shariah, Al Qaeda's North African affiliate; Al Qaeda's Yemen-based affiliate; and an Egyptian network led by Muhammad Jamal. But the report said, "Intelligence suggests that the attack was not a highly coordinated plot, but was opportunistic." (Mark et al., 2014)

In the United States territory this time during the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013, two pressure cooker bombs exploded at 2:49 pm EDT, killing three people and injuring an estimated two hundred and sixty-four others. The bombs exploded about 13 seconds and 210 yards (190 m) apart, near the finish line on Boylston Street.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) took over the investigation, and on April 18, released photographs and surveillance video of two suspects. The suspects were identified later that day as Chechen brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev. Shortly after the FBI released the images, the suspects allegedly killed an MIT police officer, carjacked an SUV, and initiated an exchange of gunfire with the police in Watertown, Massachusetts. During the firefight, an MBTA police officer was injured but survived with severe blood loss. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Marathon_bombings). Tamerlan Tsarnaev was shot by police and then run over by his brother Dzhokhar and died. Dzhokhar was injured but escaped.

An unprecedented manhunt ensued on April 19, with thousands of law enforcement officers searching a 20-block area of Watertown. During the manhunt, authorities asked residents of Watertown and surrounding areas, including Boston, to stay indoors. The public transportation system and most businesses and public institutions were shut down, creating a deserted urban environment of historic size and duration. Around 7 pm, shortly after the "shelter-in-place" advisory was rescinded, a Watertown resident discovered Dzhokhar Tsarnaev hiding in a boat in his back yard. He was arrested and taken to a hospital shortly thereafter. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Marathon_bombings)

During an initial interrogation in the hospital, it was alleged that Dzhokhar said Tamerlan was the mastermind. He said the brothers were motivated by extremist Islamist beliefs and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that

they were self-radicalized and unconnected to any outside terrorist groups. He said they had learned to build explosive devices from an online magazine of the al-Qaeda affiliate in Yemen. He said that he and his brother had decided after the Boston bombings to travel to New York City to bomb Times Square. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Marathon_bombings). Dzhokhar was charged on April 22, while still in the hospital, with use of a weapon of mass destruction and malicious destruction of property resulting in death. He has pleaded not guilty to thirty charges.

Dzhokhar said he and his brother wanted to defend Islam from the U.S., which conducted the Iraq War and War in Afghanistan, in the view of the brothers, against Muslims. Later a CBS report revealed that a note scrawled by Dzhokhar with a marker on the interior wall of the boat where he was hiding said the bombings were "retribution for U.S. military action in Afghanistan and Iraq", and called the Boston victims 'collateral damage', "in the same way innocent victims have been collateral damage in U.S. wars around the world." According to *The New York Times* the portion of the boat's interior with the note would likely be cut from the hull with permission from the owner and presented in court as evidence. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Marathon_bombings). President Barack Obama rhetorically asked while giving a speech after the incidence:

Obviously, tonight there are still many unanswered questions. Among them, why did young men who grew up and studied here, as part of our communities and our country, resort to such violence? How did they plan and carry out these attacks, and did they receive any help? The families of those killed so senselessly deserve answers. The wounded, some of whom now have to learn how to stand and walk and live again, deserve answers (Barack Obama, 2013).

On whether it was a terrorist attack he continued:

That American spirit includes staying true to the unity and diversity that make us strong -- like no other nation in the world. In this age of instant reporting and tweets and blogs, there's a temptation to latch on to any bit of information, sometimes to jump to conclusions. But when a tragedy like this happens, with public safety at risk and the stakes so high, it's important that we do this right. That's why we have investigations. That's why we relentlessly gather the facts. That's why we have courts. And that's why we take care not to rush to judgment -- not about the motivations of these individuals; certainly not about entire groups of people (Barack Obama, 2013)

An online paper issue of the guardian wrote that the judge has announced November, 2014 as the trial day for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, even though the accused lawyers want the judgement adjourned till 2015 (<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/feb/12/boston-suspect-dzhokhar-tsarnaev-november-trial>)

While the United States has emerged as almost the sole power of the new century, she has remained the most sought after country by Islamic Militants and Terrorist. France, Germany, Russia, China and Britain have not been

targeted by international terrorists the way the United States has. These States are powerful and most of them share in western beliefs, but their interests have not been targeted as those of the United States.

Islam, as a world religion, certainly deserves respect. Yet the Muslim community feels that the affluent West treat it unjustly. The Arab-Israeli conflict and the threat by past Iranian leaders over the years have kept those feelings alive. Muslims believe that the creation of Israel and the atrocities committed by that country are a big conspiracy by the West to suppress them. They also believe that the Iraq and Afghanistan intervention was initiated by the United States as part of same conspiracy. Religious fundamentalists take advantage of this public sentiment to create havoc and spread terrorism.

Since the United States promotes and preaches freedom, liberty, equity and human rights, why has it failed or delayed the Palestine cause? Muslims and some Islamist fundamentalists find it most difficult and painful to see and accept the sufferings of their fellow brethren in Palestine and blame the US for the present tragedy and its unequivocal support of Israel. The former Iranian leader Ayatollah Alikhameni supported this claim after the September 11 attack as presented by the New York Times, "America is not sincere in fighting terrorism. It has other objectives. America's hands are stained with all the crimes committed by the Zionist regime"

The US supports Saudi Arabia, an autocratic country with no democratic and fundamental human rights, yet it refuses to recognize the democratically elected Palestinian representatives of Hamas in Gaza. Muslims also question the US policy of allowing Israel to hide its nuclear weapons and maintain its own, while rallying its western allies to prevent Iran from obtaining the same. Ironically, the United States success depends entirely on the cooperation of China and Russia, which might not be forthcoming, as they both have their own agendas to pursue.

Economically, the United States tends to be losing her grip as an economic power. Its employment rate and the trade deficit are soaring. China has been her foremost economic rival even in her so called sphere of influence. And she also tends to be losing face among her allies after being accused of tapping the telephone lines of her bosom allies and the revelations of Edward Snowden, Julian Assange of WikiLeaks and Bradley Manning with the end of the Cold war, America rightfully should reap the benefits of the freedom from fear and terror as the sole Power in the international system. No wonder in the words of C. K Krauthammer:

There is but one first rate power and no prospect in the immediate future of any power to rival it....American preeminence is based on the fact that it is the only country with the military, diplomatic, political and economic assets to be a decisive player in any conflict in whatever part of the world it chooses to involve itself (Krauthammer, 1991).

However, the opposite is an example. Islamic fundamentalists are successfully indoctrinating young

people to resort to violence in the name of Jihad. Some Islamic States have also turned blind eyes to the radicalism of their youths and citizens against Western Ideas and ideologies. It is not as if the United States is wrong or right to impose certain Western ideas, but the Islamic leaders should also know that some aspect of their culture need be neglected. If core issues are not addressed, even if the US wins the war in the Middle East, it may not dampen the resistance of young Muslims and Fundamentalist around the World. Rather, it is likely to embrace new and more dangerous terrorist tactics. As violence begets violence, it would be impossible for the United States to monitor, occupy and control every Muslim militant country and groups in the world and even in her own territory. While some Scholars believe that Terrorism which is the 'looming stone' can be eliminated, others believe that it cannot (David and Bruno, 1986) but it should be noted that powerful states regarded as (Goliaths) which had existed before now; Athens, Sparta, Byzantine, Roman Empire, France, Czarist Russia, Great Britain; and in Africa: Oyo Empire, Asante Empire, Benin Kingdom, etcetera were disintegrated and fell as a result of the gradual looming stone which broke their powers and the eventual collapse of their empires.

CONCLUSION

In America's pursuit of security in a hostile world, it would not be an act of weakness, incredibility and impotence if the United States were to take steps to address the root causes of anti-Americanism which spurns from the Middle East and developing nations. It obliges the United States working in ambit with the United Nations Organisation and other key players in the world stage to act with resolute determination to solve the political disputes and long-standing conflict, which generate support for terrorism and expedite action in the American-Middle east Plan under the road map and sanction Israel if need be. Also, the US should make sure that her erring military and non-military agents and observer who flaunt the laws and tradition of a host or occupying country should be tried by the municipal law of that country and not asked to be extradited to the United States.

There is no doubt that the United States has after the Cold war enmeshed itself in another war. The enemies are not the 'East' this time but anonymous. They spurn from the terrorist and Islamic militants groups in the Middle East, Africa, Far East, Europe, and The Latinos to the young American who abhors the inconsistencies in United States Foreign Policy and sympathises with the Islamic and terrorist cause; just like it was when some United States citizens spied for the Soviet Union during the Cold War. In the words of Bradley Manning at a pre-trial in February 2013, confessed that he "leaked the material to expose the U.S military's 'bloodlust' and disregard for human life, and what he considered

American diplomatic deceit". He further said he "chose information he believed would not harm the United States and he wanted to start a debate on military and foreign policy". He did not testify at his court-martial subsequently though. These are some of the unknown enemies and they will strike at any cost, anywhere, at anybody who allies with the US.

As regards the Crimean Crisis which is an ongoing international crisis basically involving Russia and Ukraine, the United States must not unilaterally take any decision that does not conform to the tenets of international law, rather a concerted effort with other members of the Security Council in the United Nations, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). If a new referendum is rescheduled and dim free and fair by the international community and observers still tilts towards Russia, the United States must not see such outcome as another territory loss like the case of Vietnam but as a prestige gained. The US must show that truly she is a state that respects peoples' rights of self-determination and the tenets of democracy.

The United States while leaving the American dream must tread the slippery ground softly as it liberates, protects free people and spread Democracy and developmental ideals round the world. In doing this, she must respect the conservative culture, norms and ideals of certain people as well as mandating its agencies and Military to respect the municipal laws of the host communities and states if not, such person or agents would not be extradited to the US for persecution but allowed to face the consequence of his or her action in the host communities. The United States should not impose or super impose her culture on other people as well as denying the underdeveloped or developing states aid in the name of being subservient to the American ideals and ideas. She must be true to its true principles of Democracy and liberalization and not relegate helpless and Islamic States as she should realize that there were once upon powerful States who have gone down in history as there is always a Stone for every Goliath including her-The US.

REFERENCES

Allen, N. (2010). *Times square car bomb was act of terrorism the telegraph*. Retrieved from <http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

Andrew, C., & Declan, W. (2010). Taliban behind times square plot, says US" *The Guardian* Retrieved from <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/may/09/times-square-bomb-pakistani-taliban>

Bazuaye, B. (2005). Terrorism and the pre-emptive use of force: What does it portend for Article 2(4). *Faculty of Law Lecture Series 6 . University of Benin*. September 12. Benin City: Nigeria.

Bender, D. L. L., & Bruno, L. (Eds.). (1986). *Opposing viewpoints terrorism*. Minnesota: Green Heave Press Inc.

CNN Wire Staff. (2010). Time square suspect had explosives training, documents say. Retrieved from <http://www.edition.cnn.com/2010/CRIME/05/04/new.york.car.bomb/>

Congress Research Service. (2004). Terrorist attacks by Al Qaeda" a memorandum to house government reform committee, March 31, 2004. Retrieved from www.fas.org/irp/crs/033104.pdf

DiBacco, V. T, Mason, L. C., & Appy, C. G, (1992). *History of The United States 2 Civil War to the Present* Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Elshtain, J. B. (2003). *Just war against terror: The burden of American power in a violent world*. New York: Basic Books.

Erhagbe, E. O. (2005). The sleepless giant: Paradoxical consequences of USA pursuit of policy of freedom from fear through interventionism in world politics since World War II. In N. C. Ejituwu, F. M. Ogunleye, D. I. Teilanyo, & E. O. Erhagbe (Eds.) *The American society since the four freedoms*, (pp.162-173). Benin City: American Studies Association of Nigeria and Mindex Publishers.

Faddis, C. (2013). Faddis on Benghazi: Reports shed light on post attack narratives. Retrieved from <http://www.andmagazine.com/content/phoenix/13488.html>

Fouad, A. (2010, May 10). Fouad Ajami: Islam's nowhere men. *The Wall Street Journal*.

George, B (1990, October 1). The UN world parliament of peace address to the UN Gen Ass, NY Oct 1 1990. Dispatch (US Dept. of State), 1(6), 152.

George, B. W. (2001, November). Terrorism: Threat assessment, countermeasures and policy. *US Foreign Policy Agenda: An Electronic Journal of the US Department of State*, 6(3), 2.

Higgs, R. (1998). US military spending in the cold war era: Opportunity costs, foreign crises and domestic constraints. *Cato Policy Analysis*, No.114, Nov. 30, 1998 at www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa114.html Accessed on 1/29/2014

http://article.wn.com/view/2009/11/13/Defense_lawyer_Fort_Hood_suspect_may_be_paralyzed_12/

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Times_Square_car_bombing_attempt

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Marathon_bombings

<http://www.fbi.gov/newyork/press-releases/2010/nyfo100510.htm>

Krauthammer, C. (1991). The uni-polar moment. *Foreign Affairs*, 70(1), 22-33

Mazzetti, M., Eric, S., & Kirkpatrick, D. D. (2014). Benghazi attack called avoidable in senate report. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/16/world/middleeast/senate-report-finds-benghazi-attack-was-preventable.html?_r=0

McCallie, M. F. (2002). The campaign against terrorism: Finding the Right Mix of Foreign Policy Instruments. In D. J. Kaufman, et al.. *Through alternative lenses: Current debates in international relations* (4th ed.) Boston: McGraw-Hill Primis Custom Publishing.

McCloskey, M. (2009, November 8). Civilian police officer acted quickly to help subdue alleged gunman. *Stars and Stripes*.

Nye Joseph, S. Jr. (2003). *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History* (4th ed.) New York: Longman & Pearson.

- Obama, B. (2013). *Boston Marathon bombings: Barack Obama statement on suspect's capture*. Retrieved from <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/barackobama/10007338/Boston-Marathon-bombings-Barack-Obama-statement-on-suspects-capture.html>
- Oseghale, C. (2014, January 14). US court upholds Abdulmutallab's life sentence. Retrieved from <http://www.punchng.com/news/us-court-upholds-abdulmutallabs-life-sentence/>
- Pillar, P. R. (2001). The instruments of counter terrorism. *US Foreign Policy Agenda*, 6(3), 10-13.
- Punch Nigeria*. (2001, September 30). p.11
- Reuters*. (2012, March 3). Yemen: American Trainer Attacked.
- Rourke, J. T. (2003). *International Politics on the world stage* (9th ed.). US: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.
- Samuelson, R. J. (2001, September 17-23). End of Illusion. *Washington Post National Weekly Edition*, p.27.
- The Guardian*. (2014). Boston bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev to go on trial in November: Tsarnaev's lawyers asked for a trial date no earlier than September 2015 but judge says November 3 is realistic and fair. Retrieved from <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/feb/12/boston-suspect-dzhokhar-tsarnaev-november-trial>
- The Nation*. (2011, November 17). *Bullets hit White House window*, p.61.
- The New York Times*. (2013, May 16). Note by Boston Bombing Suspect Sheds Light on Motive, Officials Say.
- The Washington Times*, (2012, October 18). Fort hood victims see similarities to Benghazi.
- Ukaz Newspaper*. (Arabic). (1996, July 10). Then-Saudi Minister of Health, Dr. Osama Abdul Majeed Shobokshi, was quoted as putting the number of casualties at 498 and the number of deaths, all American, at 19. The report mentions no Saudi deaths. By this time, the minister said, 96% of those injured had left the hospital; the three remaining were recuperating from their injuries. p.1.
- William, K. R., Mark, M., & Peter, B. (2010, May 14). Arrests in Pakistan widen bombing case. *New York Times*.