Consequences of the U.S. Global War on Terror: Afghanistan

**PERSPECTIVE**
BY Alexey Makein

With a month of the attacks on the United States of America, which occurred on 11 September 2001, Washington launched its Global War on Terror (GWOT), which remains ongoing to this day. In fact, it is still not completely evident to confront and combat terrorism anywhere in the world that threatens the world. The GWOT directed at America and its allies.

The American-led GWOT is responsible for two major wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as numerous military operations conducted throughout the Middle East and North Africa, primarily through the use of airstrikes and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Strikingly, however, the United States and its allies were, arguably, initially successful in providing meaningful results towards reaching their goals, the overall impact of the GWOT is still debatable, and it will ultimately fail to fully achieve their objectives.

Even though the American-led coalition significantly reduced the influence of al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, and successfully killed or captured a substantial number of their operatives in Afghanistan, they were unable to destroy the organization or curb its influence. In fact, one can argue that the war in Afghanistan actually helped al-Qaeda gain influence and further develop a series of networks throughout the Middle East and Africa, which continue to thrive and actively conduct terrorist operations throughout the region.

While the United States and its allies were able to push back the Taliban from key strongholds, they never effectively defeated the Taliban nor curbed their desire to regain control of their former strongholds in Afghanistan. Despite the fact that the United States possesses a dominant military force, it was never able to successfully adapt to unconventional warfare.

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**
BY: Marjan Gholipour

**TEHRAN** — The vice-president of France’s main business lobby group Medef says French companies have hailed investing in agribusiness, infrastructure, and energy projects in Iran.

“France has the necessary conditions, including hard currency, to implement projects in Iran,” Jean-François Paud Raad, the head of Medef’s Iran office, told Tehran Times in an interview.

Medef: French firms seek to invest in agribusiness, infrastructure and energy projects in Iran

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Oil dependency no more: Iran goes for taxation

Oil appears to have been downgraded in its position as the main source of the Iranian government’s revenues for the first time since the 1980s, a sign the country is getting rid of the ‘oil curse’ thanks to a ‘tax revolution’ launched by President Hassan Rouhani.

“For the first time in 50 years, the government’s share of the oil revenue is less than what it is earning from tax, including VAT,” the Guardian cited the deputy managing director of the national Iranian oil company (NIOC) Ali Kardor as saying on the sidelines of the second Europe-Iran Forum in Geneva.

According to him, systematic tax collection in Iran is expected to increase to 2.3 million in May or June next year, “a sign the country is getting rid of the ‘oil curse’,” Kardor said.

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**TEHRAN** — The value of Iran’s non-oil trade reached $41.345 billion in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 21, according to the Iran Customs Administration.

I’ll pay out of my pocket: Iran calls for forgoing fact-finding committee on Mecca tragedy

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**
BY: Marjan Gholipour

**TEHRAN** — The Iranian Majlis speaker has called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Parliamentary Union of the OIC member states to form a fact-finding committee to investigate the reasons for the tragic Mecca incident in which more than 1,000 pilgrims lost their lives.

“Undoubtedly, the responsibility of the relevant level of interests during the Haj rituals is upon the royal government of the country and the country’s officials should respond to the Muslims’ public opinion without any procrastination,” Ali Larijani said in a message to the OIC parliament.

Larijani also extended condolences to Muslims and families of the victims.

The OIC has also urged the OIC parliaments to take measures to prevent recurrences of such incidents.

On Thursday, more than 1,000 pilgrims were killed in a stampede outside the holy city of Mecca. The disaster took place during the annual Haj ritual.

According to the latest reports, 214 Iranian pilgrims so far have been confirmed dead and 248 missing.

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Dubai housing squeeze pushes middle-income expats out to the suburbs

Dubai (Reuters) — While Dubai continues to pump out superlative new real estate, many of its middle-income workers are being priced out as the city no longer offers the luxury lifestyle that attracted many to forsake Europe for the Gulf.

A shortage of affordable homes and a jump in fees following the financial crisis are pushing foreign workers in the city’s more prosperous districts to less glamorous areas of the city far from the offices where they work.

Investment banks, lawyers and top executives - from architects, accountants and IT specialists through to hotel and retail executives - are often on household incomes that are at least four or five times the average for similar positions in expatriate areas such as Downtown, for example, where two-bedroom flats can cost up to $10,000 per month.

That’s the assessment of Gustavo Reis, senior economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) who says risks of a global recession “are higher than usual at the moment”.

While the outlook for global growth remains “reassuring”, movements in the months ahead are expected to only 5% chance of a significant growth dip. This probably reflects some reversal of the exercise points to only 5% chance of a significant growth dip, which is somewhat bigger than the 3% risk of a considerable slowdown.

Risks of a global downturn are higher than usual at the moment, he believes that the growth in the years to come will “be a little less than we would expect”.

Rather than plunging into recession, the bigger risk is that global growth moderates further despite renewed rounds of policy stimulus, extending the current global malaise”.

Reis notes that while past global recessions could be priced in by investors, the financial crisis was “an entirely different phenomenon”.

The markets hit by the financial crisis “trade by risk”.

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Dubai - A new squeeze on the Middle East’s most expensive housing market has forced many workers to look for cheaper rents.

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