



Distinguished Lecture Series

Eurasianism and Pakistan's Strategic Location

Event Date: March 23, 2026

Venue: Online Webinar

Time: 17:00-18:30

Moderator: Dr. Gul-i-Ayesha Bhatti, Director Eurasian Chapter, CAPES

The Consortium for Asia Pacific and Eurasian Studies (CAPES), in collaboration with Tsargrad Institute, Russia, organized a lecture by Professor Dr Aleksandr Dugin on “Eurasianism and Pakistan’s Strategic Location” under the aegis of the Distinguished Lecture Series. Dr. Dugin is one of the most renowned and influential philosophers in contemporary Russia, often dubbed as “Putin’s brain” by Western media. The online lecture was attended by a wide range of academicians, practitioners, media persons, and university students. The event was moderated by Dr Gul-i-Ayesha Bhatti, Director, Eurasia Chapter CAPES.

During his address, Dr Aleksandr Dugin stated that the contemporary global order is seeing a fissure in the unipolar order in place since the 1990s. He delved into the history of international order, stating that even during the bipolarity of the post-World War order, the world was already divided into two circles of reality, i.e., the United States and the Soviet Union, under which national sovereignty was already a mirage. The decline of the Soviet Union and the dismantling of the bipolar order by the Soviet Union itself led to the rise of the United States as the sole sovereign “hyperpower” that exercises sovereignty across the international system based on its own interests.

The rise of civilizational states, however, at the turn of the 2000s, with Samuel Huntington’s thesis on the *Clash of Civilizations*, resulted from an increasing emphasis on civilizational identity in different regions of the world. The civilizational states emerged in contrast to the national states, whose sovereignty was waning over time. These civilizational states shall lead the transformation from a unipolar world order to a multipolar world. Among the contemporary civilizational states, China has been the first major state to challenge the US-led unipolarity under the leadership of Xi Jinping. This was followed by the rise of Russia as the second pole of the emerging multipolar order. Likewise, India has also increasingly seen its role in light of its spiritual and eastern traditions, marking its transformation as a civilizational state. At the same time, we also see the rise of an increasingly Islamic civilizational state sphere, prospectively led by a nuclear weapons state. Even though there has been a rift within the

Islamic world on sectarian lines, it would have been balanced with Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons, with Pakistan already possessing nuclear weapons. These two countries could form two pillars of the broader Islamic civilizational state. At the same time, the East Asian Islamic states, Indonesia and Malaysia, are also vying to establish themselves as an independent pole in the emerging multipolar order. Likewise, similar emergence of civilizational states could also be observed in Africa, around the Sahel region, and in Latin America, around the countries traditionally opposing US hegemonic interests like Venezuela.

Dr Dugin emphasized that the rise of multipolarity is not sudden or guaranteed. Even though unipolarity is declining in its territory, the process is an interaction of rise and fall of the existing order. However, we do see a change in values, including the decline of globalism and liberalism, coupled with an alternative rise of civilizationism and religious eschatology across the globe, which is paving the way for the rise of a technocentric civilizational world order. The rise of religiosity across the globe is apparent in the resurgence of right-wing across the West. The actions of the Zionist government of Israel are also betraying the secular modern democratic ideals of liberalism. Even in Russia, symbols like inheriting the Sacred Empire are resurging. All non-Western states and civilisations now try to find their own set of vision about the world, including society, politics, ethics and values, science, etc. However, this shift towards civilizationism and multipolarity is being resisted by the US-led unipolar order, resulting in the threat or use of force in cases like Venezuela, Iran, and elsewhere. Contrary to the expectations of many commentators, including himself, President Donald Trump accelerated the forceful reset of the unipolar order during his second tenure.

He noted that Pakistan is an important actor in the Islamic civilization by virtue of its strategic location, alliances, and status as a nuclear-armed state. According to him, Pakistan has adopted a cautious approach during the ongoing fissures in the international system. He added that the ongoing conflict with Afghanistan is also a result of the country's hesitation on which side to take in the ongoing global rift. Afghanistan could play a positive role in the broader reconstruction in Asia once it is managed. The hesitation in Pakistan's foreign policy may be addressed once the country reviews its policy and decisively takes a position in the larger global order. In his closing statement, Dr. Dugin advocated for promoting spiritual diplomacy initiatives to reduce hostilities between faiths, promote cooperation, and find commonalities among world religions.

During the concluding remarks following Dr Aleksandr Dugin's address, President of CAPES Dr Khuram Iqbal, noted that the response of China and Russia to the aggression in cases like Syria, Venezuela, and Iran has left many actors in the international system discouraged. The idea of Eurasianism has been central to Pakistan's foreign policy and was proclaimed in the shift to geoeconomics in the National Security Policy of Pakistan in 2022, he added. Pakistan's efforts, however, are resisted by two major challenges. The first threat is opposition by the Afghan Taliban to address the issue of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan, which has not



only affected Pakistan but also harmed Central Asian countries and even Russia. Pakistan believes Afghanistan to be the “heart of Asia.” Until Afghanistan is stabilized, the efforts to restore Eurasia are bound to fail. Secondly, the Hindutva-led BJP government in India has actively attempted to preclude Pakistan from any initiative aimed towards collective regionalism in Eurasia and Asia-Pacific in the past decade under its vision for “new regionalism.” He also emphasised that Pakistan is in the process of redefining its foreign policy outlook and presents itself as a modern Islamic republic driven by foreign policy centered on the country’s national interests at a time of turbulence when each country is left to fend for itself.

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