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GLOBAL INVADERS OR TERRORISTS?

They are in Aghanistan, they are in Iraq, in Syria, in Nato, in Yemen and in South China Sea. The U.S. has troops in nearly every country.

The United States has been at war continuously since 1940, presently has just over 240,000 active-duty and reserve troops in at least 172 countries and territories. While the number of men and women deployed overseas has shrunk considerably over the past 60 years, the military's reach has not. American forces are actively engaged not only in the conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, but also in Niger and Somalia, as well as Jordan, Thailand and elsewhere.

An additional 38,000 troops serve on presumably secret assignment in places listed simply as "unknown." The Pentagon is unable to give any explanation for this deceitful act.

There are traditional deployments in Japan (39,980 troops) and South Korea (23,591) to defend against North Korea and China, if needed, along with 36,034 troops in Germany, 8,286 in Britain and 1,364 in Turkey , all NATO allies. There are 6,524 troops in Bahrain and 3,055 in Qatar, where the United States has naval bases.

America's operations in conflict zones like those in Africa are expanding: 400 American Special Forces personnel in Somalia train local troops fighting the Shabab Islamist group, providing intelligence and sometimes going into battle with them. Many of these forces claim to be engaged in counterterrorism operations, against the Taliban in Afghanistan, against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria; against an affiliate of Al Qaeda in Yemen. So far, Americans seem to accept that these missions and the deployments they require will continue indefinitely. Still, it's a very real question whether, in addition to endorsing these commitments, which have cost trillions of dollars and many lives over 16 years, they will embrace new entanglements of the sort Trump has seemed to portend with his rash threats and questionable decisions on North Korea and Iran.

The analysts worldwide are astonished, how Washington manages to first create organizations like “Talban”, Al-Qaeda” and others, calling them “freedom fighters”, then suddenly taking a 180 degree turn, these “freedom fighters” are turned into “terrorists” for Washington. Another hidden fact remains, all these factions, discreetly are provided weaponry to continue fighting against the governments backed by Washington. What a strategy of Uncle Tom?

For that reason alone, it's time to take stock of how broadly American forces are already committed to far-flung regions and to begin thinking hard how long it should continue and whether there is a strategy?

If the American public is quiet, that is partly because America is not involved in anything comparable to the Vietnam War, when huge American casualties produced sustained public protest.

Congress has repeatedly ducked efforts to put the war against the Islamic State, which has broad popular support but no specific congressional authorization, on a firm legal footing. Trump, like his predecessor, insists that legislation passed in 2001 to authorize the war against Al Qaeda is sufficient. It isn't. After the Niger tragedy, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had agreed to at least hold a hearing on the authorization issue.

A collective indifference to war has become an emblem of contemporary America. The idea that Americans could be inured to war and all its horrors

is chilling for American public, and it's a recipe for dangerous decisions with far-reaching ramifications. There are many factors contributing to this trend:

During earlier wars, including Vietnam, the draft put most families at risk of having a loved one go to war, but now America has all-volunteer armed forces. Less than 1 percent of the population now serves in the military, compared with more than 12 percent in World War II. Most people simply do not have a family member in harm's way.

American casualty rates have been relatively low, especially in more recent years after the bulk of American troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan and Iraq. Also, the United States has shifted to a strategy in which Americans provide air power and intelligence, and train and assist local troops who then do most of the fighting and most of the dying. This year, according to the figures released by pentagon, 11 American service members died in Afghanistan and 14 in Iraq. By comparison, 6,785 Afghan security force members died in 2016 and 2,531 died in the first five months this year, according to the United States and Afghan governments. Tens of thousands of civilians also perished at the hands of various combatants, including in 2017, but the figures get little publicity. Most Americans tend not to think about them.

Since 9/11, American leaders have defined the fight against terrorism as a permanent struggle against a permanent threat. Obama withdrew significant forces from Afghanistan and Iraq. But the rise of ISIS in Iraq and Syria and a resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan led to renewed engagement, though at lower troop levels. Trump's scaremongering, has reinforced the public's sense of siege.

Washington's policy is; surround them, attack them, divide them, engage them, evade them and avoid them.

1st Chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the United States Army, General Omar Nelson Bradley has said; It's a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.

The military is essential to national security, but it is not the only thing keeping America safe. So do robust diplomacy and America's engagement in multilateral institutions, both of which are linked with faulted Mr.

Trump for ignoring or undercutting. The Pentagon, by contrast, thrives. State Department approved a \$700 billion defense budget for 2017-18, far more than Trump even requested.

Whether this largess will continue is unclear. But the larger question involves the American public and how many new military adventures, if any, it is prepared to tolerate. But, Washington, especially Trump should always remember, “Law of Averages” is always there. It seems, United States is heading towards that. There every step leads to terrorism, terrorism around the world.

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