RESOURCE CONFLICT: SECRET WARS LIE IN BETWEEN PLACES THE WORLD IS NOT LOOKING

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Abstract - With economic disputes and technology advancement competitions going on everywhere between major countries, it seems like the world has moved on from a time where people are starving and countries are fight for basic resources, resource conflicts start sound like term that is way behind us. On the other hands, resource chaos never stopped and blood were being shade in every corner of this planet. Conflicts over natural resources are should not be a new phenomenon to anyone, oil and gas are the world's most valuable trading resources and probably the most conflict prone resources known to human being, and it is considered as one of the most important reasons for the 9 years Iraq war that killed over 100 thousand people in total; money from the blood diamond trades financed long violent civil wars by rebel groups;cobalt, coltan, copper, uranium and gold has triggered countless civil wars and interstate wars in Africa; even with the most renewable natural resource water, due to the increasing consumption that brought on more and more pressure on the world's fresh water supply, the local conflicts of water resources had a long history. Moreover, nowadays the combination of water shortage and cross-border waterway transportation disputes has increased the escalation of international conflicts. There are numerous ways to solve such conflicts, but in the end everything comes down to macro-government management, only until the those countries start to realize the most important resource of a country is its people and its strong leadership but not its natural resources, the war on resources will never stop.

Keywords - Conflict, Political Psychology, Resource, Social Studies

I. INTRODUCTION

With economic disputes and technology advancement competitions going on everywhere between major countries, it seems like the world has moved on from a time where people are starving and countries are fight for basic resources, resource conflicts start sound like term that is way behind us. On the other hands, resource chaos never stopped and blood were being shade in every corner of this planet. Conflicts over natural resources are should not be a new phenomenon to anyone, oil and gas are the world's most valuable trading resources and probably the most conflict prone resources known to human being, and it is considered as one of the most important reasons for the 9 years Iraq war that killed over 100 thousand people in total; money from the blood diamond trades financed long violent civil wars by rebel groups;cobalt, coltan, copper, uranium and gold has triggered countless civil wars and interstate wars in Africa; even with the most renewable natural resource water, due to the increasing consumption that brought on more and more pressure on the world's fresh water supply, the local conflicts of water resources had a long history. Moreover, nowadays the combination of water shortage and cross-border waterway transportation disputes has increased the escalation of international conflicts. Resource based conflicts often occur in very poor countries where we can see neo-colonialism is at the root of many contemporary and where conflicts were being waged in economically poor but resource countries by western countries which made a habit of fight for resources within those region and leaving the people there to bear with the consequence. In this essay we will be using the neo-colonialism theory to analysis United State's invasion of Iraq in 2003.

II. WHAT IS NEO-COLONIALISM

Neocolonialism is a new type of aggressive policy and means that the Western powers carried out against the non western countries especially industrial or developing countries, it started becoming popular after the Second World War due to people's resistant over military take overs. Compared with the former direct force struggle and power means, neocolonialism approach is more hidden and indirect. Developed countries make full use of their economic advantages to invade non western countries from all aspect of politics, economy and culture, and they also do not rule out the military means during special times. What they are trying to do is to put the countries that have achieved political independence under their control and the purpose is to let these countries continue to serve as their commodity markets, raw material producing areas and investment places, and extract wealth to the maximum extent. In the current implementation of new nationalism, state power and multinational companies are the two most important strategic pillars. There are many ways for developed countries to practice Neo-colonialism tactics, mainly through military soft colonization, technology commodity colonization, currency colonization, culture colonization, knowledge colonization and gap colonization to exploit the colonized areas. The most popular way of Neo-colonization is the colonization of science and technology commodities. Developed countries usually uses its advanced science and technology to

createproducts hen sell their manufactured commodities to underdeveloped countries and developing countries at high prices to obtain large profits for storing funds, while intellectual colonization is the way of selling intellectual property rights to obtain profits from underdeveloped countries.

III. THE IRAQ WAR

The Iraq war was a military operation launched by the United States and Britain on March 20, 2003. The United States unilaterally attacked Iraq on the ground that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction and secretly supports terrorists without the consent of the UN Security Council. Because this war was the continuation of the Gulf War, it is also called the second Gulf War by the international community. From the beginning of the war in 2003 to the decision of the US combat forces to the United State's decision to withdraw from Iraq in August 2010, the war lasted for more than seven years. In the end, the United States still did not find the so-called weapons of mass destruction what started this war at the beginning. In the end, this absurd war finally ended with the excuse of that the documents and witnesses that had been destroyed by the Saddam regime. On December 18, 2011, all U.S. troops finally withdrew from the region. In the early years, the US military published on its website the death toll during the Iraq war from January 2004 to August 2008. A total of 76839 Iraqi soldiers and civilians were killed, 121649 were injured, and 3952 were killed by the US led coalition forces.

In 2009, the Iraqi government also made statistics on the casualties of Iraqi armed forces and civilians during the war. The result was 85694 deaths and 147195 injuries. From January 2004 to October 2008, the number of civilian deaths alone reached 86423, according to the Iraqi organization for the statistics of the number of victims.

The Iraq is a perfect example of Neo-colonialism practice in our modern day world. Even though the United Stated started war with the excuse of Iraq having weapons of mass destruction and secretly supports terrorists, most of the international world believed there was another reason: the oil source in Iraq.

Iraq is a big country in the region and is located in the center of the Middle East. Its oil reserves are second largest in the only to Saudi Arabia and second in the world, that made them an important supplier in the world oil market. Since the 1970s, the United States has basically lost its advantage in controling the world oil market supply, which is an important stratigic point for the United State to remain its leading postiion in the world. For the United States, if theymanaged to win the Iraq war in 2003, it can help the nation regain its power to control the world oil market.

If the United State can mange to control Iraq and its oil reserve, it can help the nation get out the situation ofrely heavily on Saudi Arabia's oil and gain back control the world's oil supply, both of which are of great strategic significance; In addition, if Iraq's oil is controlled, the United States can also achieve the role of resource strategic containment against Russia, Europe, China, India and other major countries, killing two birds with one stone.

In the days after the end of the war, investigations and studies have repeatedly revealed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction as reason for United States to started the war is actually a hoax. Charles Dilfer, the chief weapons verification officer of the United States Central Intelligence Agency who is responsible for searching for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, announced to the outside world that the weapons verification team has made its best efforts, but there was still no evidence that the Saddam regime possesses weapons of mass destruction.Greenspan, the former director of the Federal Reserve of the United States, also mentioned on his memoir that the United States attacked Iraq for oil resources.

IV. WHY USE A NEO-COLONIALISM APPROACH

In our modern day society, even as the most powerful country in the world, gaining power and control by invading another country or territory without a proper cause will still not be recognized by the international community and public international law, and due to scarity nature of natrual resources in the world, the countries that can control these resources will naturally become the leading countries in the world. Comparing to the international and economic status of Iraq, United Stats in 2003 had all the advantage over it. So by controlling its oil resource and make Iraq a servant to the United States was the best option for the United States to gain even more advantage within the international world. Though the use of force and weaponry normally is not the top option in the practice of Neo-colonialism, the United States did not find a better excuse than attack the Iraq for having mass destruction weapon, so between giving up on Iraq's oil resource at all and using military force to conquer the region, the United States choose the latter.

V. THE OUTCOME AND IMPACT OF THE WAR

As for the war in Iraq, some people will say that because the United States has achieved its original

goal, successfully killed Saddam Hussein, and did not get punished by the international community for starting this war without the approval of the Security Council at the to launch the war. Therefore, to a certain extent, the United States has won the war. However, from a military point of view, the United States has not grasped Iraq's oil resources as it has hoped, the number of military casualties is at large the least to say; from a financial point of view, the Iraq war cost the United States nearly US $200 million due to the depletion of manpower, military resources, various supplies and weapons, and from the moral point of view, because of the irrationality of launching the war, the United States has lost its reputation of fairness in the international community.For most countries other than ones that are directly involved in the war, majority of the people hold an attitude against the war, and in the end the anti war emotion though out the world eventually led to many demonstrations and parade against the Iraq war around the globe. Therefore, it can also be said that the war in Iraq launched by the United States has failed to a great extent.

Because of this war, Iraq's economy and infrastructure almost completely collapsed. Up to now, the situation in the region is still turbulent, and there are wars breaking out one after another. As a result, the international oil price remains high, which affected the economic development of all countries in the world.

VI. OTHER CONFLICT INVOLVING NEO-COLONIALISM PRACTICES

Though Neo-colonialism Practices was popularize after the World War II, at the beginning of the World War many countries practiced the similar theory in order to achieve national development and independence. In the 1930s after Japan had seized much of China, the nation moved its its sights on French, British, Dutch and American colonies in Southeast Asia included Indochina, Malaya, Burma, Indonesia, and the Philippines, and out of all those regions, Japan’s mean target was Indonesia. Back then Japan was heavily replied on United States for its resource import, 73% of its scrap iron, 60% of its imported machine tools, 80% of its oil and50% of its copper were all imported from the United States. Japan wanted to be economically independent, Indonesia was their way out. And at the main time,western Europeans and Americans increasingly viewed Japan as aggressive, oppressive, and a threat to their economic interests in Southeast Asia.When Japan finally invaded French Indochina, the U.S. demanded that it withdraw from there and China, when Japan refused, the U.S imposed an embargo that banned the sale of scrap iron and oil to Japan and Froze all Japanese monetary assets in the U.S. Japan was left with only two options, fight back or gives in to U.S. terms. The result for this conflict ended with Japan bombing the Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941 and led to the beginning of the World II.

VII. CONCLUSION

Although neocolonialism abandoned the former colonial physical violence, its essence is still to oppress other developing countries through its economic, military and political advantages.

Although Neo-colonialism can make colonial countries gain a lot of profits in a short period of time, unequal exchange is never the long-term solution for any country’s growth, and can even damages the interests of the whole world and breaks the world balance. We can see from the Iraq war that although the United States may have gained certain benefits through the Iraq war, the damage is also obvious; and for Japan-Indonesia conflict, the result was even worse. If it is said that every developed country practices new nationalism against other countries, then the war will continue and negatively affect the peace and development process of the whole world.The development of the world still needs healthy channels of cooperation, rather than using its own advantages to squeeze the interests of other regions.

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