

ZULF'S GEOPOLITICAL WORLD IN CONTEXT

ZULFIKAR MOINUDDIN AHMED

Older people talk about 'Cold War' as though it were some eternal struggle. But for me, born near enough to Vietnam when it was winding down in 1973, and who moved to America in 1987 and was busy with number theory in Ohio State University in the summers, absorbing Led Zeppelin and Metallica and Pearl Jam and reading a great deal of science fiction and fantasy, who played Dungeons and Dragons with white kids in Ohio, and had school buds of every ethnicity in Math-Science Program of Lys Waltien, who was in honours courses, AP courses, college course, paying small attention to news, and being quite internal with slow budding taste in literature, I was not ever a "Third World" cat at all. I had a far broader view of history later on at Princeton after I discovered Fernand Braudel, and Marc Bloch, and history in the long duree for Asia too with K. N. Chaudhari. And I was influenced by some anti-colonial issues, with Frantz Fanon and "The Wretched of the Earth". But I was idealistically aligned with Percy Bysshe Shelley. I was American in a deep way, and yet strongly English-influenced in ways that most English-ethnics in America cannot see.

Now you have this ignorant college dropout Bill Gates, who does not know me at all claim that I am "Third World". I am not offended at all; his puny limited mind is not capable of putting me in context; I, a far greater man than him escapes his limited intellectual concepts. So no, I am not any "Third World" cat. I am American, and elite Princetonian American at that. Bill Gates is riffraff. I do know something about Cold War, from geopolitics of "American Diplomacy" of George Kennan and "The Global Chess Board" of Brzezinski. But it is for me a limited perspective. Already during my teenage years this world had vanished. I don't see Third World at all. My world begins long before then, in 4000 BC and Mesopotamia, and 1750 BC Vedic India my bloodline going back through the ages, and merges with the now and sees millenia into the future of Human Race. In all this "Cold War" was just a blink of an eye.