

The Tension between India and Pakistan regarding 'Islamic Radicals'

I Analysis to Mumbai Incident

India insists that Mumbai incident which happened in November 2008 was planned by Pakistan's ISI (Inter-Service Intelligence). Mumbai attack shocked the world because foreigners such as Japanese and Westerners were killed. In 2006, a train was bombed in Mumbai, killing about 200 people. In addition, simultaneous terrorism happened in bazaar area of New Delhi in 2008, killing 21 people. Thus, in recent years many terrorism incident happened in India

The Mumbai incident gave impression that Indian radical groups carried it out. However, the Indian government came to emphasize Pakistani radical group, Lashkar-e-Taiba was mastermind.

When becoming independent from the British, Pakistan and India appealed to Islam and Hindu respectively as its national identity, however, they were not precisely divided into Muslim and Hindu nations. Serious obstacle to promoting friendly relationship between the two countries has been the Kashmir issue. The destiny of Kashmir, where Muslims are majority, is to be decided by the referendum of the inhabitants there, has never been carried out by India. On the contrary, India has been claiming that Pakistan occupies Kashmir.

"Unfairness" of India has been radicalizing Pakistani Islamic groups. Jamaat-e-Islam (the Islamic Society), which was the first Islamic fundamentalist organization in the South Asia, continued to send militias to the Kashmir conflict. Some of volunteers returned to Pakistan, entering the Pakistan army. Thus hatred towards India came to infiltrate into the Pakistan army.

Kashmir and Islamic cause have had the function of unifying Pakistan nation and nationals. Furthermore, Zia ul-Haq's strict Islamic policy radicalized Islamic groups in Pakistan. In Pakistan, Islamic radicals have grown because the US attacked neighboring Afghanistan and the Musharraf administration cooperated with the US war on terror.

In 2000, a year before 9/11, there were only 14 terrorism incident, but over 600 in 2008. It is obvious that the military action of the US in Afghanistan has been funning the terrorism in Pakistan. The US gave pressure on the Pakistan government that the Pakistan army should fight with radicals in the tribal area. The fact that many civilians were killed by the Pakistani army has been giving anger to the Islamic radicals. The Red Mosque incident clearly showed the anti-government feelings among the

certain segments of Pakistanis. Over 100 people were killed in the Red Mosque incident, including female students. The former president, Musharaf is now guarded strictly by security persons.

II The Ideology and Practice of Lashkar-e Taiba

Lashkar-e Taiba, which is thought to be the mastermind of the Mumbai incident worships Wahhabi, which is national religion of Saudi Arabia. Wahhabi was born in the Arabian Peninsular in 18th century, trying to purify Islam. So, Lashka-e Taiba is different from other Islamic radicals in Pakistan, which worship Deobandi. Deobandi was born in the British India in 19th century, aiming to strengthen the Muslims' mind. Deobandi is the biggest religious sect in Pakistan. Taliban and Jamaat-e Ulema-e Islam (JUI) belong to this sect.

Lashkar-e Taiba, unlike other Pakistani radicals which are more concerned the domestic issue including the Kashmir dispute, pays more attention to the international issues such as the US and UK military intervention in the Islamic world and occupation of Palestine by Israel. Against this background, during Mumbai incidents, the group targeted the Americans and the British, and attacked the Jewish building. Lashkar-e Taiba also sent its members to Iraq after the collapse of Saddam Husain's regime.

Lashkar-e Taiba has a military training camp near Lahore, giving training and knowledge to its 2,500 members. Some of Pakistani army personnel and ISI are thought to be providing weapons and money to Lashkar-e Taiba.

Musharaf administration had been cooperating with the US war on terror. However, on the other hand, it tacitly admitted the activities of Lashkar-e Taiba. It was contradictory attitude of Musharaf's government.

Lashkar-e Taiba has had not a few supports from the Pakistani public partly because the organization has been giving social works to the people. When the huge earthquake occurred in Pakistan in 2005, the organization set up open air hospital and gave medical operations to the people. Al-Rashid Foundation, whose assets are frozen by the US actively engaged in the relief activities then.

Seeing the US military intervention has strengthened the assertion and activities of Pakistani Islamic radicalism, president Obama's policy towards Afghanistan could strengthen the activities of Pakistani Islamic radicals such as Lashkar-e Taiba.

The US has started the cooperation with India regarding the development of nuclear power although India is not a member country of NPT (Nuclear Proliferation Treat). It can lead the improvement of Indian nuclear weapons. On the other hand, the US has

been taking harsh policy towards Iran, which is a member of NPT. It stands for the US 'double standard.'

India has not been following the UN resolution, which commands the referendum of the Kashmir people, deciding their destiny. It goes without saying that the wish of the Kashmiri people should be reflected in order to weaken the Pakistani Islamic radicals. President Obama was supported by the Jewish community at the presidential election and Benjamin Netanyahu became the prime minister of Israel. One can say that there will be pessimistic future for the Palestine issue.

In addition, President Zardari, who succeeded Musharaf had been notorious for the corruption before he returned to Pakistan in 2007. In India, after Mumbai incident, the antagonism between Hindus and Muslims may worsen. There are a lot of factors which grows the activities of Islamic radicals such as Lashkar-e Taiba. The South Asia could become unstable quickly.

III Afghanistan and the Increase of Risks in South Asia

Afghanistan has been in critical conditions and the political process begun in the Bonn conference is about to collapse. Afghan situation has destabilized Pakistan and the militancy of Afghanistan is advancing into Pakistan. Furthermore, the violence has gone beyond Pakistan to India. The security of India is challenged by the Islamic radicals' violence.

Instability of Afghanistan was caused by the lack of consensus of the neighboring countries. Agreements among Pakistan, India, Iran, Russia, China and the Central Asian countries are necessary for the stability and peace of Afghanistan.

The US army has not paid much attention to tradition and culture of Afghan tribal society. They intruded into houses, touching women and killing the people. The increase of the US soldiers is not enough for Afghanistan's stability. It is impossible to terminate the activities of Islamic radicals by military means. The US does not have enough resources, and European publics have antipathy with the battle in Afghanistan.

Afghan people had expected reconstruction of their society after the collapse of the Taliban government. However, those expectations have not been realized. Many Afghans are disappointed by the present conditions of the reconstruction. A lot of relief organization had come to Afghanistan, but because of the deterioration of security conditions, many of them retreated. Lack of the hope for future is the main background of the support for Taliban.