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The Peace on The Horizon - 75 Years after The World War 2 in the Middle East (109)

Chapter 4: War and Peace in The Middle East (23)

109 Iran-Iraq War: Isolated Iran vs Iraq supported by Arab & US (1/3)



In Afghanistan, Islamic warriors (Mujahideen) have advantageously fought Afghan War. Afghan War was not only the battle between the communist central government backed by the USSR and rural tribal rebels but also the battle between atheism and monotheism. The Islamic renaissance movement began in Afghanistan and then penetrated into the neighboring Iran. In Iran, Islamic coalition forces consisting of clerics and bazaar merchants defeated Reza Shah who advocated the Western style "White Revolution". They achieved the Islamic Revolution.

Ayatollah Khomeini, a top religious leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, had the intention to spread Islamic renaissance movement to the Arab countries. He preached Muslims in the Arab countries in the other side of the Persian Gulf, e.g. Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. He called them to overthrow the monarchies. Ayatollah Khomeini criticized that Saud family of Saudi Arabia had been occupying Islamic holy cities Makkah and Madinah and monopolized the oil wealth. Ayatollah Khomeini condemned Saud Family as enemy of Allah. He preached that Muslims had to overthrow the monarch. Ayatollah Khomeini also allured Muslims in Iraq to resist the secular dictator who forgot the faith of Islam and neglect Allah.

There were many Shiite residents along the Persian Gulf coast. In Bahrain the Shiite Muslim were majority of the population. Also there were many Shiites in the southern part of Iraq where Sunni President governed the country. Khomeini called these Shiite residents to overthrow the regime. And he aimed to overthrow even Israel. He called on Islamic countries "Kick down Israel to the Mediterranean!".

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya

(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)