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The Peace on The Horizon - 75 Years after The World War 2 in the Middle East (110)

Chapter 4: War and Peace in The Middle East (24)

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In November 1979 when the Iranian Revolution took place, a young man who arrogated himself as Mahdi occupied the Kaaba Mosque of Makkah in Saudi Arabia. The dictator of Iraq and monarchs of Gulf countries were frightened by roaring Khomeini. Sunni rulers strengthened the control of Shiite Muslims. The battle between the Shiite and the Sunni had begun again since the days of the cradle of the Islam in 7th century. Although Christianity often had conflict between sects having different doctrine and sometime resulted in warfare, Islamic society used to be generous to the different sects. They did not interfere each other. However, the Iranian Revolution brought about a new confrontation between Sunni and Shiite sects.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein thought this conflict as an opportunity to maximize his power. He declared war on Iran. It was common that the dictator used to declare the war against neighboring country in order to divert the people's eyes from domestic problems. President Hussein had the same attitude. He expected another effect, too. He was sure that as soon as he declared the war against Iran, Gulf countries might follow to Iraq. He persuaded Gulf countries that the Iran-Iraq War was the battle between the Persians and Arabs and the battle between Shiite and Sunni. Furthermore, he insisted to Western countries that the Iran-Iraq War was the battle between religious politics and secular democracy.

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya

(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)