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Not only the sectarian conflict of Shiite vs. Sunni but also the ethnic confrontation between Arabs and Iranians took place simultaneously in the Iran-Iraq war. It was odd that the Gulf monarchy countries supported secular Iraq. On the other hand, Iran of religious state supported secular Syria for the struggle in Lebanon where proxy war took place between Syria and Israel. Iran also shook out the Iraq and the Gulf states agitating Shiites living in these countries. The United States which disliked Khomeini of Iran supported dictatorship of Iraq leaving their democratic principles on one side.

In the Iran-Iraq war, Gulf monarchy countries supported Iraq against Iran. But Syria supported Iran due to the proxy war against Israel in Lebanon. Once Syria was the ally of Iraq and Gulf countries for Arab-Israel wars. However, Syria was enemy of Iraq and Gulf countries in the Iran-Iraq war. Enemy (Iran)'s ally (Syria) was enemy. Middle East geopolitics brought new horizon where the ally and enemy were commingled. The simple confrontation of Jewish Israel vs. Islamic states including Arab and Iran in the past was changed into another phase. It was the new confrontation between Shiite vs Sunni. Simple binary confrontation in the past was changed into polynomial stage at present.

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya

(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)