

Day. On this historic day, we honor the achievements of the Jewish people and the Jewish state, and salute a young and proud nation that has accomplished so much in so little time.

In the 57 years since independence, Israel has welcomed immigrants from all corners of the world, including over a million new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Israel today is a vibrant democracy, the only democracy in the Middle East, and a world leader in technology and agricultural innovation for arid regions.

We must remember that these great achievements have come at a great cost. More than 20,000 Israel Defense Force members have died fighting for the cause of a Jewish state in the years since the war of independence—over 169 Israeli soldiers in the past year alone, since the last Remembrance and Independence Days. Their sacrifice has created a beacon of democracy and hope for millions of Jews around the world.

We must also remember those innocent civilians who have been killed by terrorists trying to destroy the State of Israel and her people. By remaining strong in our convictions and our support of Israel, we honor their memory and move closer towards creating a peaceful and prosperous future.

On this Day of Independence, the United States of America and Israel stand side-by-side in our commitment to democracy, to peace, and to the State of Israel. The United States will never flinch and will never waiver in its support for the safety and security of the State of Israel and of her people.

NEW BOOK REVEALS VOICES OF
SOUTH ASIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I have recently been given a copy of an interesting new book called *Authentic Voices of South Asia*, edited by retired Brigadier General Usman Khalid and published by the London Institute of South Asia. The book is an excellent discussion of India's hegemonic ambitions in South Asia and the drive for self-determination for all the peoples of the subcontinent. I recommend it to my colleagues as an excellent source of information about that difficult and troubled region.

The book includes essays on the situation in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, and in other troubled parts of the subcontinent. It extensively discusses India's ambition to be the overwhelming, hegemonic power in South Asia and control all the countries there and its disrespect for the sovereignty of its neighbors. It is dedicated to "250,000 Sikhs, 90,000 Muslim Kashmiri Martyrs and many more who have been killed in all parts of India, notably Assam, Maharashtra, and Gujarat by Hindu mobs or the Indian police and armed forces." This doesn't mention the fact that the Hindu mobs carry out their atrocities with the connivance of the Indian police and armed forces. For example, a policeman in Gujarat told an Indian newspaper that the massacre of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims there was pre-planned by the Indian government and the police were told to stand aside, a remarkable parallel to

the 1984 Delhi massacre of Sikhs, in which Sikh policemen were locked in their barracks.

In all, Mr. Speaker, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian government, according to the Punjab State Magistracy, in addition to more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout India, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others, as well as the minorities cited in the introduction to *Authentic Voices of South Asia*. In addition, according to the Movement Against State Repression, India holds over 52,000 Sikh political prisoners, some of whom have been in illegal detention without charge or trial since 1984. Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are also held as political prisoners. This is why this book is so urgently needed and so important.

The book includes essays by Dalit leader V.T. Rajshakar, Dr. Gurm Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Editor of the *International Journal of Sikh Affairs*, and many other leaders and scholars. Mr. Rajshakar writes that "the glitter of Brahminism lies in its imperial ambitions and its fascist agenda." Dr. Sekhon writes that only accepting the principle of national self-determination provides a basis for peace and stability in South Asia.

India agreed in 1948 to a plebiscite in Kashmir to determine its status. That plebiscite has never been held, even as India proudly proclaims itself "the world's largest democracy." Well, why not simply let the people of Kashmir, of Punjab, Khalistan, of Nagalim, and of all the other minority states and communities determine their status by means of a free and fair vote. Isn't that how democracies do business? It is time for the U.S. Congress to go on record demanding a free and fair vote, demanding that India keep its promises and act like the democracy it claims to be. It is also time to stop American aid and trade with India until its "imperial ambitions and its fascist agenda" are abandoned and all people within its borders enjoy full civil liberties and human rights. Only then can India's claim of democratic principles be taken seriously.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Preface from *Authentic Voices of South Asia* into the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues and the American people.

AUTHENTIC VOICES OF SOUTH ASIA
PREFACE

South Asia is the only major region in the world with unsettled frontiers. This is not because the states that emerged from the end of British colonial rule in the subcontinent have no 'principle' or 'agreement' to draw on for settling their disputes, it is because the largest country—India—has simply resiled on the agreements it made. The 'core' dispute in the area is over the future of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. India took the matter of its 'ownership' of the State to the UN Security Council which ordered a cease fire but rejected its claim; it upheld the UN Charter and secured an agreement of both India and Pakistan that the people would decide which country their state would join—India or Pakistan—in a UN supervised Plebiscite. India used the cease-fire to consolidate its military position and then went back on its agreement in 1953 to hold the Plebiscite on the specious grounds that Pakistan had signed a bilateral defence agreement with the US and introduced a 'foreign' element that India found unacceptable.

The root cause of all the problems in South Asia is India's self view as an 'imperial' power with a role to keep order in the region. India acts like the US did when it exercised control over South and Central America under the Monroe Doctrine or the Soviet Union exercised control over East Europe under the Brezhnev Doctrine. India does not recognise the sovereign equality of states of South Asia; it acts as if it operated a 'doctrine of limited sovereignty' of sorts in the region. India is resented and abhorred by all its neighbours for that reason. India became a 'strategic partner' of the Soviet Union during the Cold War and is now a 'strategic partner' of the US and Israel. It chose its 'partners' with only one consideration—who will recognise India as the 'primary power' in the region (a policeman in American parlance) and thus help keep a lid on the pressure cooker that India had turned South Asia into.

Pakistan is not the only victim of India's 'imperial' aspiration; the religious minorities and the 'low born' inside India suffer even more. India betrayed the Sikh who it promised to give their own 'sovereign state'. It betrayed the Untouchables by Poona Pact promising meaningless 'legal safeguards' in exchange for the effective 'political safeguard' of 'separate electorate' offered to them by the British Government. All the various tribal peoples all over India, who had been self governing under British rule, have been denied their separate identity and rights. The betrayal of India is matched by the ineptitude of Pakistan's leaders who neither understood the Indian mindset nor their own role as the champion of 'post imperialism' to uphold the right of 'national self-determination' in South Asia and as a 'nation state' with Islam as the principle of national solidarity.

Putting this book together was a huge task that could be done better if some of the constraints had been absent. Because it is so difficult to speak the truth and survive in South Asia, many of the *Authentic Voices* live in exile and those who live in India have to be careful. Being a soldier rather than scholar, my editing is not characterised by 'academic restraint' but by 'forthright clarity'. But I have not tried to harmonise style or substance; the differences of views between the various contributors exist, as they must. After all, these are the *Authentic Voices* of different I peoples. I am grateful to all the contributors, particularly to Syed Ali Geelani and Mr V.T. Rajshakar, who are under close watch in India, to have taken risks to address the people of South Asia and given them hope and direction.—Brigadier (R) Usman Khalid.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET
RESOLUTION CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on February 17, 2004, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$7 trillion for the first time in our country's history. One year later, our national debt is \$7.7 trillion. In the past year, our country has added \$700 billion to our national debt.

The conference report for the FY06 budget resolution that is before us today would increase the statutory debt limit by \$781 billion to a record \$9 trillion. Mr. Speaker, enough is