

**Theme:** Globalisation - Peacekeeping

**Text:** Address to UN General Assembly by Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran (NY, 17 Sept. 2005) — Extract

[I]f international relations are defined without justice or spirituality and are void of moral considerations, then mechanisms for promoting confidence and peace will remain insufficient and ineffective.

If some, relying on their superior military and economic might, attempt to expand their rights and privileges, they will be performing a great disservice to the cause of peace and, in fact, will fuel the arms race and spread insecurity, fear and deception. If global trends continue to serve the interests of small, influential groups, even the interests of the citizens of powerful countries will be jeopardized, as was seen during recent crises and natural disasters such as the recent tragedy of Hurricane Katrina.

Today my nation calls on other nations and Governments to move forward towards a durable tranquillity and peace based on justice and spirituality. The Islamic Republic of Iran was born of a movement based on the pure, primordial nature of a people who rose up to regain their dignity, esteem and human rights. The Islamic revolution toppled a regime which had been put in place through a coup and that was being supported by those who claim to be advocates of democracy and human rights. For 25 years they thwarted the aspirations of the nation to development and progress through the intimidation and torture of the population and submission and subservience to outsiders.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the manifestation of true democracy in the region. The discourse of the Iranian nation is focused on respect for the rights of human beings and on a quest for tranquillity, peace, justice and development for all through monotheism. For eight years, Saddam's regime imposed a massive war of aggression and occupation on my people. It employed the most heinous weapons of mass destruction – including chemical weapons – against Iranians and Iraqis alike. But who, in fact, armed Saddam with those weapons? What was the reaction of those who now claim to fight against weapons of mass destruction to the use of chemical weapons back then?

The world is witness to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran, because of its humanitarian principles – even during the most trying of times and when it was sustaining the highest number of casualties – never allowed itself to use such weapons. Thousands of nuclear warheads stockpiled in various locations, coupled with programmes to further develop these inhuman weapons, have created a new atmosphere of repression and the rule of the machines of war, threatening the international community and even the citizens of the countries that possess them. [424]

### Annotations

12 primordial – inherited, in the blood 13 Islamic revolution – in 1979 the Shah was forced to leave the country 14 coup – in 1941 Britain and Russian troops installed a pro-western Reza Pahlavi 15 thwart – prevent from realizing sth.

### Assignments

- 1) Who and what is threatening peace according to President Ahmadinejad? [Contents – avoid quotations, use your own words]
- 2) Analyse the use of rhetorical means in this extract. Pay special attention to rhetorical questions and the choice of words. (How do these means underline the speaker's message?) [Analysis – work closely on the text]
- 3) How convincing do you find Ahmadinejad's views on peace in the world?