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Might should not provide the right

IT should be quite obvious by now that the state of the world today, with all the economic sanctions and threats of subjugation, actually has nothing to do with international peace and security. Rather, it is about the geopolitics of control where might is right. Yes, the stuff Arthur Desmond wrote about 100 years ago, and still sermonised to deaf ears today by many leaders sick and tired of domination by the United States.

The reminder by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to a group of international parliamentarians on Monday about a world stuck in the Stone Age in the way it deals with itself is a reflection of the frustration of much of the global community at the prevailing circumstances. Indeed, what is happening in hot spots like Iraq, Palestine and North Korea is simply a manifestation of the strong lording it over the weak in grim, primordial fashion.

The world must be astonished, for instance, that so much emphasis is given by the US and its allies to the Iraqi threat of aggression against its neighbours, principally Israel. Yet little or no attention is given to Israel's weapons of mass destruction, its continued state of belligerence with its Arab neighbours, and its recurrent defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. But the Israelis should know by now that defence and security measures, and even its own brand of terrorism, have not stopped suicide bombers.

As the Prime Minister put it, the world is far less thorough in defence and security than the Israelis. It stands to reason, therefore, that the international fight against terror by upgrading defence and security is going to be far less successful than the Israelis. All it needs is a rethink - one which calls for a departure from the old culture and values and the caveman philosophy of oppressing people and destroying their countries.

But after years of debilitating military action and economic sanctions by the rich and powerful, it should be clear by now that things are not about to change as long as the logic of the day is: If you are strong you'll rule and reign. Then, each man gains what others lose and each plants his heel on a fallen foe.

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