

Pakistani Academic Muhammad Maaz Arif interviews American Researcher Jeb Sprague on Academic Bravery, Oligarchy, Transnational capitalism, BRICS, Multipolarity, Gaza & World War 3

Speakers:

Jeb Sprague (American Researcher)

Muhammad Maaz Arif (Pakistani Academic)

[26-Jul-2024]

Summary:

The conversation focuses on academic bravery, anti-war activism, and the ethical responsibilities of scholars, with Jeb Sprague recounting his confrontation with George W. Bush as part of a larger resistance to USA aggression in Iraq, Afghanistan, Gaza, and Syria. They discuss BRICS, multipolarity, the decline of USA supremacy, and the necessity for international law and grassroots movements to confront military power, as well as concerns about nuclear deterrence and elite moral degradation. The discussion concludes with observations on Gaza, Jerusalem's symbolic importance, historical Western-Muslim tensions, and how USA influence exploits internal fissures in countries.

Text/Transcript:

The discussion centers on **academic bravery**, activism against U.S.A foreign policy, and the moral responsibility of scholars. Jeb Sprague¹ recalls confronting George W. Bush at a public event, relating his actions to a larger tradition of opposing injustice, militarism, and damaging US involvement in Iraq, Afghanistan, Gaza, and Syria. The speakers emphasize how personal experiences and family members harmed by war influenced their anti-war position².

They claim that **identity politics** frequently diverts attention away from more serious matters such as sanctions, colonialism, and militarism, and that debate on these subjects is severely suppressed in Western academia. This suppression, they claim, is linked to a global system of oligarchy, transnational capitalism, USA hegemony, and the influence of American intellectual and cultural norms around the world².

The discussion then shifts to **BRICS, multipolarity**, and the loss of U.S.A dominance, particularly the erosion of the petrodollar. They emphasize the importance of international law, global cooperation, and grassroots movements (rather than just academia) in challenging U.S.A military dominance. They also explore nuclear deterrence, the moral decay of elites, the culture of money-worship in academia, and the need for broad-based, intergenerational political organizations².

Finally, the speaker reflects on **Gaza**, the symbolic and strategic importance of **Jerusalem**, the historical roots of Western-Muslim conflict, and World War 3. They end by noting how U.S.A influence operates in **Pakistan** by playing military/political actors against each other, echoing patterns seen elsewhere like Haiti².

References:

1. “Jeb sprague - curriculum vitae.” <https://sites.google.com/site/jebsprague/>
2. Iqbal’s Response 21C, “Jeb Sprague - Academic Bravery, Oligarchy, BRICS, Multipolarity & WW3 (IR21C Podcast #3),” *YouTube*. Jul. 28, 2024. [Online].
Available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJ6SW2W13sM>

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References:

1. "Jeb Sprague - curriculum vitae." <https://sites.google.com/site/jebssprague/>

2. "Jeb's Response 2IC: Jeb Sprague - Academic Bravery, Oligarchy, BRICS, Multipolarity & WW3 (IR2IC Podcast #3)." YouTube. Jul. 28, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJ5SW2W13dM>

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