

■ CURTAIN UP

Unholy Nexus For Power

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, priests and politicians conspire to stay in power. The ruthless, fanatic religious Afghani zealots terrorise with the gun – kidnapping and killing is their only and daily business. They want to dominate every aspect of the lives of the people they want to control whose life has become, in the words of Thomas Hobbes, "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short".

In Zimbabwe, the top politician, President Robert Mugabe, has been entrenched in power for 28 years gradually tightening his grip on his oppressed people. After ruining the economy with inflation rate of – hold your breath! – 100,000 per cent, he still wants to hang on to power after the last election. Earlier, a similar situation occurred in Kenya after its elections. Over 1,500 people were killed and over 150,000 made homeless before a compromise was reached.

It's the same story everywhere. Take Italy, for example. In the 63 years since the World War II, Italy has had 62 elections that have become a farce as no government lasts long enough to make any meaningful changes. Despite huge corruption charges, media tycoon Silvia Berlusconi has been elected the Prime Minister for the third time. Meanwhile, four Mafia gangs rule Southern Italy.

The Democratic nomination for the US Presidential Election seems to be 'a duel to

death' between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Never has the run-up to the Presidential election been so ugly and brutal. The slug fight has become personal with truckloads of mudslinging.

In India, the battlegrounds for the forthcoming state elections this year are taking shape. General elections will follow. All these gruesome battles will bring out the worst nature of politicians in the world's biggest democracy.

The priests keep on blessing the politicians in power. A former Pope blessed the Italian dictator Mussolini as his troops butchered thousands in Ethiopia. The current Pope blessed US President Bush – never mind the invasion of Iraq that has killed over 600,000 Iraqis in five years. The gurus bless all politicians – including the corrupt and criminal - who seek their blessings. The mullahs bless every ruler - elected or not – who allows them to spread their type of religion. The priests urge their followers to kill in the name of God; the politicians in the name of the country.

Can we make any sense of the nexus between the priests and the politicians? Osho says, "You have to be aware who the real criminals are. The problem is that those criminals are thought to be great leaders, sages, saints and mahatmas. So I have to expose all these people because they are the causes." And he does, with no holds barred.

- Swami Kul Bhushan

