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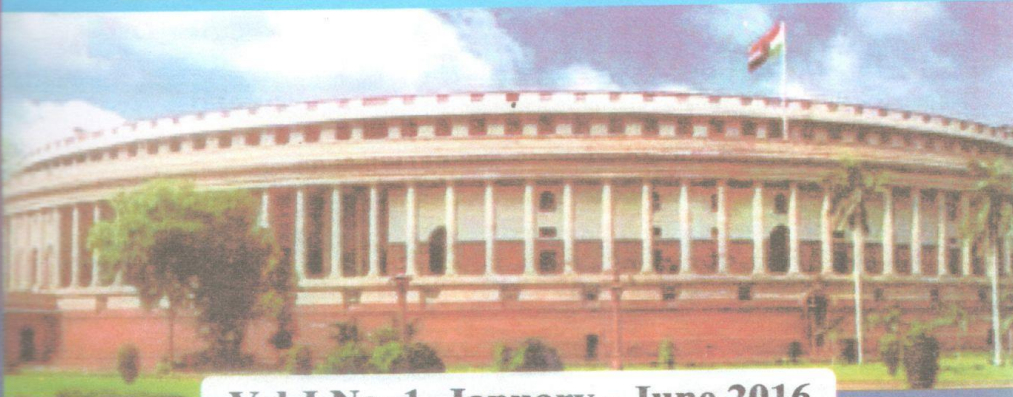
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UNTAMED TIBET, UNRELENTING CHINA AND UNRESPONSIVE WORLD

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INTRODUCTION : THE PROBLEM

China and Tibetans led by the Dalai Lama disagree on almost every aspect of Tibet including its past, legal status, autonomy as well as prevailing human rights condition in Tibet. Chinese claim that Tibet has been a part of China since Yuan Dynasty of 13th century. They concede that Central Chinese government could not always enforce its effective control over Tibet, but they emphasize that whenever the central Chinese government was strong, it did enforce its authority over Tibet. Thus Chinese recognize Tibet as having its own culture and language but not independence. The Tibetans on the other hand believe that Tibet was an independent country which at some point in time was more powerful than China but made concessions to China whenever Chinese central government was strong, however it asserted its independence whenever Chinese government weakened.

The communist government of China captured Tibet in 1950 and in 1959 the Dalai Lama had to escape from Tibet fearing for his safety. At the same time the most visible Tibetan opposition to the occupation of Tibet took place, which was swiftly and brutally suppressed by

China. (Hao, 2000: 12) However, Tibetans suggest that Chinese actually crushed nearly 1000 rebellions before 1959. (CTA, 2001: 14) Subsequent known revolts and protests occurred in 1987, 1988, 1989, 1993, 2008 and 2012. (Patranobis, 2012:11) Tibetans accuse China of suppressing the revolts and opposition by brute force by resorting to intimidation, imprisonment, torture and killing of hundred thousands of Tibetans; forced labour and confiscation of property of Tibetans; transfer of Chinese people to Tibet; destruction of Tibetan monasteries and artifacts; anti Dalai Lama propaganda; outlawing Tibetan flag, photographs, teachings and speeches of Dalai Lama; ban on Tibetan festivals; replacement of Tibetan language by Chinese and consolidation of Chinese control through 'development' of transport and economy. The objective according to Tibetans is to ensure assimilation of Tibet into China and wiping out Tibet's distinct identity. (CTA, 2001: 8-61)

Chinese blame the Dalai Lama for the uprisings and protests and defend the crackdown on protesters. Chinese sources claim to have liberated the Tibetan serfs and term the revolt of 1959 as a revolt by elite