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## The next Raj

SIR—In “The meaning of the word Raj” (November 12th) you correctly identify India’s long-term imperial ambitions in the subcontinent and the surrounding region. The Nehru family has always believed that it has a tryst with the Hindu destiny, which lies in establishing India

as a regional power. This dream will materialise when the smaller countries bordering India have their foreign policies dictated by Delhi.

We in Pakistan have always believed that India seeks hegemony in the subcontinent. Why does it build such a huge navy or spend so much on defence? It is ludicrous to expect that Pakistan will attack India.

What we are witnessing is the creation of a power-hungry aberration. Very soon India will demand its own sphere of influence. If the West and Moscow think that the story will end there, they are being naive. How will this new factor integrate into the Hindu-Muslim rivalry? What will be the impact of this new presence in the global balance of power? What is the Chinese reaction going to be?

India’s quarantining of Sri Lanka is a return to gunboat diplomacy of the imperial era. Pakistan (Bangladesh), Sri Lanka, Nepal and now the Maldives have seen the nature of India. Let us hope that the world wakes up to the threat of “brown imperialism.”

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