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## South Asian peace and nuclear weapons

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### Abstract

Historically southern Asian countries like India, China and Pakistan became agree to support the nuclear free zone at all the levels but due to some developed nations policies, it is still pending. Formally, all these three south Asian nations, still, rigid to proliferation of nuclear weapons but due to international competitive environment, this goal has been away from it direction.

Recently, China became a powerful country in the world and started to give challenges to United State America in the entire sector in an open competition. This is a breakthrough to many other nations but USA is affected more than others. Russia is also in trouble as China is challenging all the big and developed nations.

India still wants to remain the nuclear weapon as China and Pakistan both are biggest rival in the world. Day by day China encroach the Indian border in Himalayan region and there is border tension in Indian Army. Since both Pakistan and China have nuclear weapons, so it is pressure to India to continue its nuclear testing to maintain the peace on border. In other words, it can say that India needs nuclear weapons only because both the rivals China and Pakistan have nuclear weapons. Strategically India's nuclear power / weapons are maintaining the peace in south Asian region. China needs more nuclear power as China is major competitor of United State America in other hand India needs nuclear weapon to maintain the peace.

After 1971 defeat from India, Pakistan is more desperate about the security of Pakistan, so their government is more attentive and expending their nuclear power. Pakistan took nuclear weapon as guaranty that if they hold nuclear weapon, both China and India cannot harm Pakistan. Pakistan also expending their other military power and buy regularly other military weapons from Russia, America and China. In other way, it can say that Pakistan will not stop proliferation of nuclear weapons for long run.

**Keywords:** South Asia, India, China, Pakistan, nuclear weapon, peace

### Introduction

South Asia is a region that faces many challenges and opportunities in the field of nuclear security and stability. The two main nuclear-armed states in the region, India and Pakistan, have a history of conflict and mistrust, as well as divergent nuclear doctrines and postures. China, another nuclear power, also has a complex relationship with both India and Pakistan, and influences their strategic calculations. The Non-nuclear aggression agreement is a bilateral and nuclear weapons control treaty between the two South Asian states, India and Pakistan, on the reduction (or limitation) of nuclear arms and pledged not to attack or assist foreign powers to attack on each's nuclear installations and facilities. It was signed in 1988 and entered into force in 1991. The agreement requires both parties to exchange information on the location of their nuclear facilities every year on January 11. It also prohibits both parties from undertaking, encouraging or participating in any action aimed at causing the destruction of, or damage to, any nuclear installation or facility in the other country <sup>[1]</sup>.

The agreement is seen as a confidence-building measure and a step towards nuclear risk reduction in South Asia <sup>[2]</sup>. However, it has also been criticized for being inadequate and ineffective in addressing the broader issues of nuclear deterrence and stability in the region <sup>[3]</sup>. Some of the challenges that remain include: the lack of clarity and transparency on the nuclear doctrines and capabilities of both India and Pakistan; the growing asymmetry in their conventional and nuclear forces; the potential for escalation from sub-conventional to conventional to nuclear levels of conflict; the impact of emerging technologies such as ballistic missile defence, hypersonic weapons, cyber warfare and artificial intelligence on the nuclear balance; and the role of third parties such as China, the United States and Russia in shaping the regional security environment <sup>[3]</sup>.

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There have been several proposals and initiatives to enhance nuclear cooperation and dialogue between India and Pakistan, such as the Lahore Declaration of 1999, the Composite Dialogue Process of 2004-08, the resumed dialogue of 2011-12, and the back-channel diplomacy of 2014-15<sup>3</sup>. However, these efforts have been hampered by political tensions, terrorist attacks, border skirmishes and domestic pressures<sup>[3]</sup>. The most recent crisis in February 2019, triggered by a suicide bombing in Pulwama that killed 40 Indian paramilitary personnel and was claimed by a Pakistan-based militant group, demonstrated the fragility of nuclear deterrence and stability in South Asia<sup>3</sup>. Both sides engaged in aerial strikes across the Line of Control (LoC), which separates Indian- and Pakistani-administered Kashmir, and claimed to have shot down each other's fighter jets. There were also reports of missile tests and deployments by both sides during the crisis<sup>[3]</sup>. The crisis was defused with the help of international mediation, but it also exposed the gaps in crisis management mechanisms and communication channels between India and Pakistan.

The report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) titled "Nuclear deterrence and stability in South Asia: perceptions and realities" provides an in-depth analysis of these issues based on extensive interviews with experts from India, Pakistan, China, Russia and the United States<sup>3</sup>. The report also suggests some possible steps that could help improve the situation, such as: restoring a robust, trusted, reliable and deniable back-channel between the leaderships of India and Pakistan; establishing a bilateral strategic stability dialogue; expanding the scope of existing confidence-building measures; engaging China in a trilateral dialogue on regional security; exploring multilateral initiatives on nuclear risk reduction; enhancing transparency on nuclear doctrines and capabilities; moderating rhetoric on nuclear issues; avoiding provocative actions such as cross-border raids or missile tests during crises; exercising restraint in developing new technologies that could destabilize the nuclear balance; and cooperating on non-proliferation and disarmament issues.

### India- Pakistan Relation

India and Pakistan have a long and complicated history of rivalry and conflict, especially over the disputed region of Kashmir. Both countries are nuclear-armed and have been increasing their nuclear warhead stockpiles in recent years. Their nuclear weapons can cause immense damage and massive loss of life if used in conflict.

According to a recent book by former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, India and Pakistan came close to a nuclear war in February 2019, after India launched strikes against militants in Pakistani territory following an attack on Indian troops in Kashmir. Pakistan shot down an Indian plane and captured a pilot, and both sides believed the other was preparing their nuclear weapons for a strike. It took hours of diplomatic efforts by the US and other countries to convince them to deescalate the crisis.

Some scholars argue that nuclear weapons stabilize relations between adversaries by creating a state of mutually assured destruction, or MAD, where neither side can afford to start a war. Others contend that nuclear weapons can make conflict more likely and dangerous by encouraging lower-level provocations and miscalculations of escalation risks. The historical record from the Cold War is mixed<sup>[2]</sup>.

India and Pakistan have both acquired a nuclear weapons capability outside the framework of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and are therefore considered de facto nuclear weapon states. India has a nuclear triad of land, air and sea launch capabilities, while Pakistan is still developing its sea-launched cruise missiles.

### SWOT Analysis

SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. It is a strategic planning tool that helps to identify and evaluate the internal and external factors that affect the performance of an organization, project, or situation. Here is a brief summary of the SWOT analysis of India-Pakistan border relation based on the web search results:

#### Strengths

1. India and Pakistan share common cultural, linguistic, and historical ties that can foster mutual understanding and cooperation.
2. India and Pakistan have a history of joint efforts for resolving differences through peaceful means, such as the Indus Water Treaty of 1960, the Shimla Agreement of 1972, and the Lahore Declaration of 1999.
3. India and Pakistan have both expressed their desire for normal neighborly relations and constructive engagement for the benefit of the people of the region.

#### Weaknesses

1. India and Pakistan have unresolved disputes over the territory of Kashmir, which has been the main cause of three major wars and several limited conflicts since 1947.
2. India and Pakistan have divergent views on the boundary demarcation of Sir Creek, a marshy area in the Rann of Kutch, which affects their maritime rights and interests.
3. India and Pakistan have a trust deficit and a lack of communication due to frequent incidents of cross-border terrorism, violence, and ceasefire violations.

#### Opportunities

1. India and Pakistan can enhance their bilateral trade and economic cooperation, which is currently very low compared to their potential<sup>[3]</sup>.
2. India and Pakistan can collaborate on regional issues such as climate change, energy security, water management, disaster relief, and counter-terrorism.
3. India and Pakistan can leverage the role of third-party mediation, which has been more successful and result-oriented in resolving issues between them in the past.

#### Threats

1. India and Pakistan face the risk of escalation and miscalculation due to their nuclear capabilities and doctrines.
2. India and Pakistan are influenced by domestic politics, public opinion, media, and extremist groups that can hamper their peace efforts.
3. India and Pakistan are affected by the changing regional and global dynamics, such as the rise of China, the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the emergence of new alliances.

## Conclusion

The relation between India, Pakistan and China on nuclear weapons is a complex and dynamic one, involving historical, political, strategic and technological factors. Here is a brief summary of some of the main aspects of this relation.

1. India is believed to have sought nuclear capabilities after its defeat in a brief 1962 border war with China. Pakistan, on the other hand, was motivated by the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 that led to the independence of Bangladesh.
2. China has a long history of transferring nuclear weapon technology and material to Pakistan since the 1980s, through which it has assisted Islamabad to develop its nuclear deterrent against India. For instance, China passed the entire design for a nuclear weapon to Pakistan in the early 1980s and provided weapon-grade uranium that could power two nuclear devices.
3. India and Pakistan have engaged in several violent confrontations along their contested borders, such as the Kargil War in 1999 and the Balakot airstrike in 2019. These incidents have raised the risk of a nuclear crisis or escalation between the two countries.
4. China and India have also faced border tensions, such as the Doklam standoff in 2017 and the Galwan Valley clash in 2020. These disputes have increased the strategic competition and mistrust between the two Asian giants.
5. All three countries have been expanding and modernizing their nuclear arsenals and delivery systems, such as ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, submarines and aircraft. Some of these systems are capable of carrying multiple warheads or maneuvering in flight to evade defenses.
6. The nuclear doctrines and postures of the three countries are also evolving and diverging. India has adopted a policy of no first use (NFU) of nuclear weapons, while Pakistan has reserved the right to use them first in response to conventional attacks. China has also declared a NFU policy, but some experts doubt its credibility.
7. The three countries have different approaches to nuclear arms control and non-proliferation. India and Pakistan are not signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), while China is a member of both. India and Pakistan have also been seeking membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), a multilateral export control regime, but China has opposed India's bid on the grounds that it is not a NPT party.

## Conclusion

A concluding remark on nuclear weapons is a statement that summarizes the main points or arguments about the topic, and provides some insights or recommendations for the future. There is no definitive answer to what a concluding remark on nuclear weapons should be, as different perspectives and opinions may exist. However, based on the web search results I found, here is one possible example of a concluding remark on nuclear weapons:

Nuclear weapons pose a grave threat to humanity and the planet, as their use or accidental detonation would cause unimaginable suffering, death and destruction. The humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are

unacceptable and cannot be adequately addressed by any existing or foreseeable means. Therefore, the only way to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again and to eliminate the risk of their proliferation is to prohibit and eliminate them completely. This requires a collective and urgent action by all States, especially those that possess or rely on nuclear weapons, to join the global efforts to ban these weapons and achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. Such a world would be more secure, stable and peaceful for all.

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