

Stability On the Brink, Indian New Normal Policy and Threat of Nuclear War in South Asia

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Abstract

Since its independence in 1947, Pakistan faced a constant challenge by its eastern neighbour. India's attitude towards Pakistan had always centred on hostility and undermining its stability. Various methods have been employed to undermine Pakistan's sovereignty; its disintegration in 1971 would not have been possible without India's crucial role. While Kashmir remains a bone of contention between the two South Asian states, India's aspiration to become the regional hegemon has complicated the relations between the two rivals even further. India desires regional hegemony while Pakistan deems it unacceptable. After the inception of Nuclear weapon in the South Asian Theater, it was believed that a permanent balance had been achieved, but it was unacceptable for India. To overcome the nuclear dilemma, India came up with the Cold Start doctrine. Cold Start Doctrine is conventional military strategy under which India will increase the efficiency of its force so that it can invade Pakistan any time in a very short period. Though immediately this strategy was neutralized by Pakistan. Pakistan introduced short-range, tactical nuclear and asserted that it would

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use these short-range missile in case of aggression by the Indian military. Even in the presence of tactical nuclear weapons, India did not back out from its plan to become regional hegemon or to acquire enhanced capability and capacity to undermine Pakistan at any given time. To achieve this goal, India is discussing to change its nuclear doctrine, which will be supported by a missile defence system. With already present nuclear shadow in South Asia, aggressive Indian policies to create a new kind hegemonic order in the region can lead South Asia to destruction.