



VISION

VISIONARY INSIGHTS INTO THE STRATEGIC INQUESTS OF NATIONS

SVI FORESIGHT

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4
APRIL 2020

Compiled & Edited by:
S. Sadia Kazmi

Strategic Vision Institute
Islamabad

SVI FORESIGHT

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4
APRIL 2020

Compiled & Edited by:
S. Sadia Kazmi



Strategic Vision Institute (SVI)

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this edition are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Strategic Vision Institute.

Strategic Vision Institute (SVI)

Strategic Vision Institute (SVI) is an autonomous, multidisciplinary and non-partisan institution, established in January 2013. It is a non-governmental and non-commercial organization, administered by a Board of Governors (General Body) supervised under a Chairperson and administered by a Management Committee headed by a President/Executive Director.

SVI aims to project strategic foresight on issues of national and international import through dispassionate, impartial and independent research, analyses and studies. The current spotlight of the SVI is on the national security, regional and international peace and stability, strategic studies, nuclear non- proliferation, arms control, and strategic stability, nuclear safety and security and energy studies.

SVI Foresight

SVI Foresight is a monthly electronic journal. It has a multi-disciplinary perspective highlighting on the contemporary strategic and security studies. The Journal is envisioned to be a collection of policy-oriented articles written by its Research Associates, Visiting Faculty and professional experts. The objective is to provide the readership with a concise all-round and real-time policy oriented discourse on contemporary strategic regional and international developments, highlighting their relevance to Pakistan.

Contents

Editor’s Note	1
Pakistan’s Strategic Preparedness and Critical Decision-Making One Year after Balakot	
M. Waqas Jan	2
US Containment Policy Towards China: Threats to Security In South Asia	
Irfan Ali.....	5
US-Afghan Peace Deal: Beneficial For Pakistan’s National Security	
Sher Bano	8
India’s Hybrid, Cyber Threats and Its Regional Implications	
Basma Khalil	10
Biosecurity: Reawakening of New Realities	
Shamsa Nawaz	12
Pakistan’s Quid Pro Quo Plus: A Key Strategic Determinant	
Haris Bilal Malik.....	16
Balancing Great Power Competition with Strategic Stability – The Troubling Case of South Asia	
M. Waqas Jan	18
Justifying the Need for Pakistan’s Enhanced Counter Force Conventional Deterrence	
Haris Bilal Malik.....	21
Global Crisis: A Shift in Global Order with Emergence of Symbiotic Relationship	
Hananah Zarrar	24
India’s ISR Capabilities: Implications for Pakistan	
Haris Bilal Malik.....	26
Indian Increasing Defense Budget and Military Modernization: Security threats for Pakistan	
Irfan Ali.....	28
Post Pulwama India-Pakistan Relations Under the Light Of War Mongering Indian Media	
Sher Bano	30
WHO at Deflected Crossroads of Politics	
Shamsa Nawaz	32

Editor's Note

As the pandemic continues with considerable spike in confirmed cases inside Pakistan as well as around the globe, the SVI research scholars have accordingly been focusing more on the current situation in their writings. Analytical commentaries included in this issue, extensively explore various aspects of the Covid-19 onslaught, such as its economic, social, and political implications as well as human and regional security challenges it poses to Pakistan. The reversing of globalization is evident from closing of borders across the globe. The transnational security challenges posed by a non-traditional security (NTS) threat have taken a front seat in the overall security calculus of the states. International political order has been compelled to shun the traditional concepts of security strictly based on military power. Similarly, Pakistan needs to redefine its national security policy adding in the environment, public health, pandemics, economic crises and other areas of public interest. This debate has been aptly covered in some of the articles included in this issue of *SVI-Foresight* such as: “non-traditional threats to national security”, “bio-security: reawakening of new realities”, and “global crisis and emergence of symbiotic relationships”. However, this is not to suggest that the traditional security challenges have lost their relevance. Especially the South Asian regional setting demands a more holistic approach to security. Hence, the debate has been balanced out with the addition of articles titled “India’s increasing defence budget and military modernization: a major security threat to Pakistan”, “Pakistan’s quid pro quo plus: a key strategic determinant”, “Pakistan’s strategic preparedness one year after Balakot”, “US containment of China and impact on South Asian politics”, and “balancing great power competition in the region”. It is hoped that readers will find a good blend of articles focusing both on traditional as well as much needed non-traditional security debate. The SVI Foresight team invites and highly encourages the contributions from the security and strategic community in form of opinion based short commentaries on contemporary political, security and strategic issues. Any suggestions for further improvements are welcome at our [contact address](#). Please see [here](#) the copy of SVI Foresight electronic journal. You can find us on [Face book](#) and can also access the SVI [website](#).

Senior Research Associate
Syedah Sadia Kazmi

Pakistan's Strategic Preparedness and Critical Decision-Making

One Year after Balakot

M. Waqas Jan

With numerous heads of state gradually coming to terms with the realities of an entire world under lockdown, India's new domicile laws for the disputed territories of Jammu and Kashmir mark a return to business as usual for India-Pakistan tensions. Particularly following Pakistan's official condemnation of what has been termed as the 'Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Order 2020', the threats which this seven decades old dispute still pose to regional peace and stability remain ever-present even amidst a prevailing global pandemic. Especially considering how just a year ago, both countries were brought dangerously close to the brink of total and perhaps even nuclear war, it is worth highlighting how India's sustained and single-minded approach to altering the status-quo across the LoC, by any means necessary, risks yet another global catastrophe. The kind of catastrophe which may render the ongoing COVID-19 crisis as wholly insignificant compared to the near irreversible effects of a devastating nuclear war between both countries.

These dangers are clearly evident in how with even more than a year having passed since the Balakot air strikes, there has not yet been a clear acknowledgment of how India's new-found penchant for nuclear brinkmanship and reckless flirtation with the escalation ladder has affected Pakistan's strategic preparedness and crisis decision making. For instance, Prime Minister Modi's now infamous reference to his planned *qatal ki raat* (Night of Murder) and Prime Minister Khan's purported warning of responding to any such provocation 'three times over' presented startling insights into how both countries' politico-military leaders envisioned the escalation ladder. Whereas, the above references are reported to have alluded to ballistic missiles armed with conventional payloads, the irreversible step towards a nuclear strike – be it a tactical demonstration or a pre-emptive decapitation – remained unnervingly close. The risks of which are likely to have then weighed heavily on decision makers on both sides of the border.

Considering how both sides' missile delivery systems are inherently designed for dual-use purposes, this comingling of strategic and conventional assets presents a disquieting reaffirmation of the immense difficulties faced when accurately ascertaining the other's intentions and risk assessments with reference to a 'mutually acceptable' escalation ladder. Whereas many analysts on both sides of the border have evinced confidence that both India and Pakistan understand each other's strategic signals and postures, the deliberate change being brought about within India's strategic doctrine and military thinking is aimed at radically altering this understanding. A development that is further adding to the difficulty of ensuring deterrence stability within an increasingly complex and technologically advanced world.

This impact of comingling strategic and conventional capabilities on critical decision-making and overall situational awareness has been discussed at length in a recent report released by the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington D.C. titled 'Under the Nuclear Shadow' the nearly two year study is aimed at assessing the impact of some of the latest ISR capabilities on the strategic calculus and situational awareness of nuclear weapons states. It identifies a broad range of developments which key policymakers in charge of today's nuclear arsenals need to take into account whilst recognizing 'the complex interplay between technology, escalation, and decision making.' Within this framework, the risks of what the report identifies as 'Entanglement' or decision makers' inability to delineate between nuclear and conventional risks, represents a highly significant potential pathway for escalation.

The simple truth that these risks were in full play during last year's confrontation between nuclear armed India and Pakistan throughout the post-Pulwama environment has since been grossly underrated by Indian policymakers. In fact, this has been evident throughout India's search for a limited engagement with Pakistan, just below its nuclear thresholds as enshrined in its now institutionalized concepts of 'Cold Start' and 'Surgical Strikes'.

As a result, the onus has been placed solely on Pakistan to disentangle such risks. What's more, Pakistan has to now base its risk assessments of India's intentions mostly from the missions being conducted against it, as opposed to the fast expanding, dual-use capabilities of the Indian military. These include India's Brahmos cruise missiles and its S-400 missile defense batteries both of which can respectively deploy and detect both conventional and nuclear assets. Thus, making it extremely difficult for Pakistani decision makers to distinguish a potential conventional mission from a nuclear one.

Taking into account Pakistan's self-avowed doctrine of Full Spectrum Deterrence, what such provocations may and have probably already led to is a significantly reduced nuclear threshold. While much has already been written on how Pakistan's Tactical Nuclear Weapons (TNWs) such as its Nasr missile batteries have significantly reduced this threshold, a perhaps highly understudied aspect is how India's aggressive posturing and increasing ambiguity with regards to its NFU (No First Use) policy has since played psychologically on the minds of Pakistani strategists and decision makers.

As pointed out in the above referenced report, the prevalence of cognitive biases in the form of confirmation bias and availability heuristics within an increasingly complex nuclear environment in themselves present a dangerous path towards escalation. Amidst the deliberate jingoism and incessant allusions to nuclear war-fighting from key leaders within India's national security apparatus, there is a genuine risk that India's institutionalized brinkmanship -by willfully bringing about first-strike instability – may lead to all-out disaster under the reckless garb of calling Pakistan's nuclear bluff. This holds especially true when considering that the dominant

discourse surrounding an irrational Indian security junta, imbibed in the RSS's fanaticism, may be directly driving certain aspects of confirmation bias and availability heuristics within Pakistani decision-making circles. A factor that has already perhaps multiplied exponentially since India's decision to engage in a cross-border air-strike against Pakistan just 14 months ago.

Hence, with the entire world reeling from an unseen pandemic that has already changed day to day life as we know it, the risks of something even graver still loom large when considering the precarious strategic balance in South Asia. Risks that are all seriously worth re-considering as both countries simultaneously attempt to secure the well-being and future of their respective populations as part of a joint global effort. Ironically pointing towards yet another common goal which both countries can find some common ground over to help de-escalate such prevailing tensions.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/04/06/pakistans-strategic-preparedness-and-critical-decision-making-one-year-after-balakot/>

US Containment Policy Towards China: Threats to Security In South Asia

Irfan Ali

“The Future of Politics will be decided in Asia and the United States will be right at the centre of the action” — Hillary Clinton

South Asian region is home to a large population that faces multiple internal and external problems. The biggest challenge for South Asia as opined by various writers is peace and security. Former Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz emphasized on the need for South Asian political leadership to develop a clear narrative on security issues which are a great hindrance to the peaceful development and stability of the states of the region. Internally regional states have been experiencing instability, underdevelopment, poverty, corruption, illiteracy, sectarian conflicts, terrorism, and many other problems.

Externally the involvement of foreign powers also remains a big source of tensions throughout the region. Particularly, when it comes to the US-China relations and their security policies in South Asia which mostly revolve around three major factors i.e. human rights, trade, and security. Both Washington and Beijing have contending world views which lead them to the divergence of opinions concerning security interests in South Asia.

However, an interesting fact to note is that on one hand the United States considers China as a staunch adversary and on the other hand, they are major trade and business partners worth \$737.1 billion during 2018 and worth \$559 billion during 2019. Furthermore, the US introduced the policy of “Rebalancing or Pivot to Asia” which is considered as part of a greater strategy of containment of China. Beijing’s fast economic growth compelled the US, being a dominant power, to introduce a new policy that aims to contain the increasing Chinese influence in Asia via looking over the changing global economic, political, financial structures of the world. In this regard, Washington has been trying to engage with more nations in the South Asian region particularly India and Pakistan.

For containing Beijing, Washington adopts a two-pronged policy based on hard and soft power, United States has historically been involved in the South Asian region owing to multiple reasons such as Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, India-Pakistan nuclear tests, 9/11 incident, Washington-Delhi rapprochement, and above all for the containment of China.

The rise of Beijing compelled the United States to engage deeply with South Asian nations to limit Chinese influence and engagement, particularly with Delhi to create a balance of power in the region. In this regard, the Chinese factor became the major reason for Washington to make India an important trade and investment partner.

In addition to this, increasing strategic significance of the Indian Ocean with growing Chinese presence worried the US. The ocean provides direct access to the oil-rich Persian Gulf. As for Chinese policy concern toward the US, it pledges to opt the policy of hedging i.e. two contradictory policy directions simultaneously being pursued, which in this case are: balancing and engagement.

On one hand the state maintains a strong military, builds and strengthens alliances, while on the other hand it builds trade networks, increases diplomatic links, and creates multilateral frameworks. Hence, China projects soft power through Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and tries to make more alliances. Moreover, China aims at changing the global structure in which the US has a dominant position through political, economic, and financial structures of the world. Moreover, Beijing particularly aspires to be the regional hegemon particularly in South Asia because of its near abroad and first testing ground for success of BRI project to become successful globally.

While the growing Indo-US nexus has posed serious threats to the security of the South Asian region. Pakistan, being a strategically important nation, could best serve American interest through being a part of American policies and actions in which Afghan issue and BRI keep much importance. Also, Washington keeps an attentive eye over Afghanistan and Iran in the region for limiting Chinese influence therefore it doesn't want Iran and Afghanistan draw closer to China by being part of BRI. China and Iran share cordial relations but American sanctions over Iran create restrictions for Beijing to engage with Tehran for trade and other exchange of goods.

The presence of the US forces in Afghanistan, after 9/11, has worsened the security condition of the region. Because of this South Asian region has become fragile giving birth to multiple terrorist elements such as ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and Taliban rendering the region unstable and fragile. Moreover, Washington's support for the Indian-led transport corridor project under development in Iran and Afghanistan results in growing Indian influence and involvement in both the countries. Resultantly Delhi misuses its influence and involvement in both states against Pakistan and carries out terrorist activities on Pakistan's soil as is evident from the arrest of an Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav, who entered Balochistan, one of the provinces of Pakistan, from Iran with malicious aim of carrying out terrorist activities.

Therefore, all these acts of Washington to contain Beijing in South Asia gives birth to many security concerns in the region. Such as increasing interstate tensions between nuclear-armed

neighbors India and Pakistan, insurgency, violent conflicts, and security problems ranging from militancy to organized crime which makes it more complex and insecure.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/07042020-us-containment-policy-towards-china-threats-to-security-in-south-asia-oped/>

US-Afghan Peace Deal: Beneficial For Pakistan's National Security

Sher Bano

In late February finally a peace agreement was signed between United States and the Taliban that sets a timetable for the withdrawal of the US troops from Afghanistan. The negotiations that led to the deal were long and apprehensive due to various turn of events. Pakistan played the most crucial role in the Afghan peace process, which includes getting the Taliban and some of its senior figures to the negotiating table. Finally, Pakistan's longstanding calls for negotiations with Taliban have been vindicated. For years instability and conflict in Afghanistan had led to more cross-border terrorism, more refugee flows and increase in drug trade which has been huge trouble for Pakistan. Hence Peace and stability in Afghanistan is essential for the national security of Pakistan because both the states share borders.

Due to its strategic location and being the main stakeholder, Pakistan had an important role to play in this peace agreement. The first priority of Pakistan was peaceful Afghanistan because peace and stability in Pakistan is profoundly connected to peaceful Afghanistan. The Durand line is a 2640km border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, this lengthy border has posed major difficulties for Pakistan mostly pertaining to controlling the infiltration of terrorists. If an understanding is reached between the Afghan Taliban and the Afghan government, it will restrain the growth of terrorism not only within Afghanistan but will also keep it from spreading towards Pakistan. This can ensure better security for Pakistan's north western border along Afghanistan. Therefore, a peaceful Afghanistan is in the best interest of Pakistan.

No other regional state has suffered as much from persistent Afghan warfare in the last three decades as Pakistan. The human and the material cost of the current war has been exceptionally grave. Therefore, Pakistani policy makers have been constantly trying to secure a power sharing deal between the Taliban and other Afghan groups. Moreover, Pakistani interests are best served by a relatively stable government in Kabul which is not hostile towards Pakistan. A friendly government in Kabul secures Pakistan's western border from encroachment by India or Indian proxies and serves the dual function of forcing a de facto recognition of the Durand Line (the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan) by the central Afghan government, something which successive Afghan governments have refused to do and which have aroused fears in Pakistan tracing back to the country's birth.

Apart from that an inclusive peace settlement in Afghanistan will pave the way for the repatriation of nearly 1.9 million registered and one million undocumented Afghan refugees from Pakistan. The presence of these refugees has incurred grave economic, security and social cost

for the country in the last three decades. Approximately 60% of the Afghan refugees live in the rural areas and 40% live in the refugee camps. Moreover, the progress in the Afghan peace process will also allow its army and paramilitary greater ability to fight domestic insurgency and terrorism.

It is also important for Pakistan to counter India's influence in Afghanistan. Its influence in the country has grown over the years in the garb of providing economic and developmental aid. Its ultimate purpose has been to increase its military influence so that it can play bigger political role in Afghanistan. For years Indian trained militants have been causing unrest in Pakistan. Hence all these factors pose a direct threat to the security of Pakistan and also its interest in Afghanistan. This peace agreement will help decrease India's influence in Afghanistan. Pakistan hopes to regain the lost trust by working for the interest of both the states and ultimately to persuade Afghanistan to sideline India.

Terrorism has been the biggest threat to the national security of Pakistan and instability in Afghanistan is the huge reason behind it. Even though Pakistan has been actively fighting against the terrorism on the front-line, it is also the most affected one. Afghan war in 1970's lead to a number of challenges for Pakistan such as religious extremism, influx of Afghan refugees etc. that resulted in causing many security problems for Pakistan. Hence through its ongoing efforts in Afghan peace process, Pakistan will be able to find prospects of peace on its own soil as well.

In order to ensure its national security, it is necessary for Pakistan to have a more stable and secure neighbor. Only then Pakistan would be able to tackle its internal and external security challenges. Even in future Pakistan aims to play a constructive role in the Afghan peace process as many of our aspirations for security and prosperity depends upon peaceful Afghanistan with stable government.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/07042020-us-afghan-peace-deal-beneficial-for-pakistans-national-security-oped/>

India's Hybrid, Cyber Threats and Its Regional Implications

Basma Khalil

Hybrid threats are designated as a swing from a traditional force model to an approach which combines kinetic and non-kinetic tools in a deliberate and synchronized campaign to destabilize and gain political leverage over an opponent. However, Hybrid warfare is widely understood as a blend of regular, irregular, information and cyber warfare. After the nuclearization of South Asian region, there has been a growing realization within the Indian military that a conventional war could be both untenable and cost prohibitive. Such conception gave rise to hybrid war under the rubric of nuclear weapons as the preferred strategy by India.

One can observe the evident growth of hybrid warfare in the Indian strategy of pressuring Pakistan through media, subversion, cyber warfare and diplomatic maneuvers aimed at its isolation. Doval doctrine is the clear evidence that India has already strategize against Pakistan. India's hybrid warfare strategy against Pakistan is built on five major fronts around Pakistan's perceived weaknesses to achieve the "3D Objectives". 3D indicates the Destabilization, Demoralization and Disintegration of Pakistan. This doctrine furthermore includes five more fronts under the regime of hybrid threats which are proxies, information war, cyber warfare, economic war and political war. The stipulated objective is weakening of Pakistan to the extent that it accepts Indian hegemony in the region.

India is proficiently using hybrid-warfare capabilities to pursue its objectives in South Asian region since the end of Cold War. Nevertheless, Islamabad has been resisting New Delhi's endeavors to establish its hegemony in the region. India has been frequently violating the Line of Control. Within the military domain it is against the law and not allowed to launch fire on the civilians' working or moving near the border during the peacetime. India always tries to defame and malign the image of Pakistan by manipulating and misguiding international media. By the end of March 2020, a RAW funded group caught in Karachi University fueling anti-state activities including terrorism and anti-state narrative propagation against Pakistan. Although Pakistan very efficiently embarks upon curbing India generated conspiracies, such type of activities being carried out, increasing hybrid threats pose serious security concerns for Pakistan.

As stated above, hybrid threat involves cyber warfare techniques as assisting tools of hybrid techniques. Cyber threat is another hazard in South Asian region to be handled and manipulated to win advantages over enemy. New technologies are quickly integrated into both nations' strategies; utilizing cyberspace has become a useful tool for both India and Pakistan. Cyberspace has become a space where hacktivists and patriotic hackers from both sides can express their patriotic feelings and denigrate the adversary. Cyberspace also acts as a means for

Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs), which are groups that hold highly probable links to state institutions, to spy and gain information on their opponent. Technologically number of the cyber-activities observed in the India-Pakistan rivalry showed that even with relatively unsophisticated cyber-tools, APTs managed to steal information and achieve their strategic goals. Actors involved in the cyber activities and operations carried out between India and Pakistan in cyberspace used a variety of cyber tools and techniques to achieve their aims. Hacktivists and patriotic hackers used specific tools to find vulnerabilities in websites, and then exploited them to deface the site. APTs tended to use spear phishing to get access to their victim's network and then infect them with spying malware.

Rising Security Research Institute in 2019 has captured the attack launched by the internationally renowned Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) organization "Rattlesnake" through the Rising Threat Intelligence System. This time, the organization had targeted the Pakistani Navy via Target collision hijacking method. Specifically targeting the Pakistan Naval Public Relations Bureau, the attempt was aimed at stealing vital information from secure military networks while planting misleading documents masquerading as official statements from the Pakistan Navy regarding its regional neighbors such as China and India. Based on such threats, Pakistan must be readily prepared for any kind of cyber espionage and take steps towards establishing a strong national cyber policy to protect its civilian and military infrastructure.

Hybrid/cyber threats operate below the threshold and it has deepened its roots in South Asian region especially in Pakistan. War had never been smooth since its early times, but hybrid war threats employ different tools in engaging low intensity conflicts which mainly include cyber threats along social disintegration, political and economic subversion. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani stated in 2019, that 'this is a hybrid war. We need to understand it correctly.' In hybrid warfare, the purpose is not to always achieve an immediate victory; sometimes the purpose is to demoralize it over time. Pakistan is already having a deteriorating economy and it needs to steadily address the causes that are providing leverages to conduct hybrid operations in Pakistan and leaving long term hazardous effects in form of weak economic conditions, political and social instability. Pakistan must formulate a national hybrid threats response policy to tackle and dissolve the hybrid threats posed by India. Whereas in the cyber domain Pakistan should emphasize more on indigenously developing its own cyber security industry so that in the near future it could benefit both its civilian and military infrastructure in the long run. Hence, while Pakistan may be limited in its ability to wage a strong offensive campaign within the realm of cyber warfare at the moment, such steps would go a long way in helping lay the foundations to build something greater on.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/07042020-indias-hybrid-cyber-threats-and-its-regional-implications-oped/>

Biosecurity: Reawakening of New Realities

Shamsa Nawaz

Originating from Wuhan, Hubei, on January 20, 2020, the insane escalation of COVID 19 has pathologically silenced the boasting walk on the moon and the technological advancement by the humans, by infecting more than 2, 00,000 people and killing more than 45,000 people all over the world, so far. At the same time, massive transmissibility of the virus has become widely controversial with arguments both in favour and against it being a bioweapon attack. Initially, the international governing powers blamed each other for its spread with Trump repeatedly calling it a 'Chinese virus' and pointed out at Chinese facilities involved in similar research. On the other hand, China is suspecting American military laboratories around the world, while referring to the Biohazard containers buried at American Consulate Wuhan. The politically divided world is also divided in their opinions with the Israelis blaming Chinese and Russians blaming Americans as a part of the race for economic supremacy. The Russian news agency RIA Novosti in an article by Igor Nikulin, a former member of UN Commission on Biological and Chemical Weapons claims that he was contacted by Chinese colleagues who believe that the Coronavirus is manmade. He reported that the spread is sabotage and also speculated that this dangerous cargo from an American laboratory might have been carried out by US diplomatic staff to Wuhan. It is also supported by a foreign policy expert Lenoid Savin working at Shadowy Strategic Culture Foundation. He speculated that the creation of Coronavirus bioweapon has been adding to the strenuous relationship between the major powers.

Reflecting on the history of the spread of viruses, Dr. Thomas in his lecture refers to the findings of Steiner, a physicist, who blamed the poisoning of the cells by disturbing the electromagnetic field with excessive technological spread. In 1918, the world experienced Spanish Flu pandemic, due to a quantum leap in the electrification of the earth by the introduction of the radio waves in late 1915. Whenever, any biological system is exposed to a new electromagnetic regrouping, the toxic cells purify themselves by excreting poison. After the WWII, the radar equipment all over the world blanketed the entire earth, resulting into Hong Kong Flu pandemic in 1968. It was the first time the protective layer on the earth, which integrates the cosmic fields from the sun, the moon, the earth, the Jupiter etc and then distributes it to the living beings on the earth, was disturbed by the installations of the satellites emitting massive radioactive frequencies. The people are excreting poisons regarded as viruses almost after every six months similar to viruses such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The coronavirus is a continuation of the same thread since electromagnetic field has once again been disturbed by 5G with 20.000 radiation

emitting satellites installed, incompatible to human health. Wuhan was its first residence as first completely blanketed city.

Nevertheless, the genie is out of control and the world at large is suffering in a collateral damage. An emerging challenge lies at the intersection of science and public policy. While, biotechnology is yielding life-enhancing breakthroughs at an exhilarating pace, the community of scientists are also warning against the rise of fiercely destructive forces specifically, biological weapons. The risks and challenges are multi-diversional to the international security. The impact is on the core of the universe; the humans. Their physical, psychological, societal and economic health is at stake. The war is non-conventional and the terror is unethically individualistic transcending geographically and numerically defined nations.

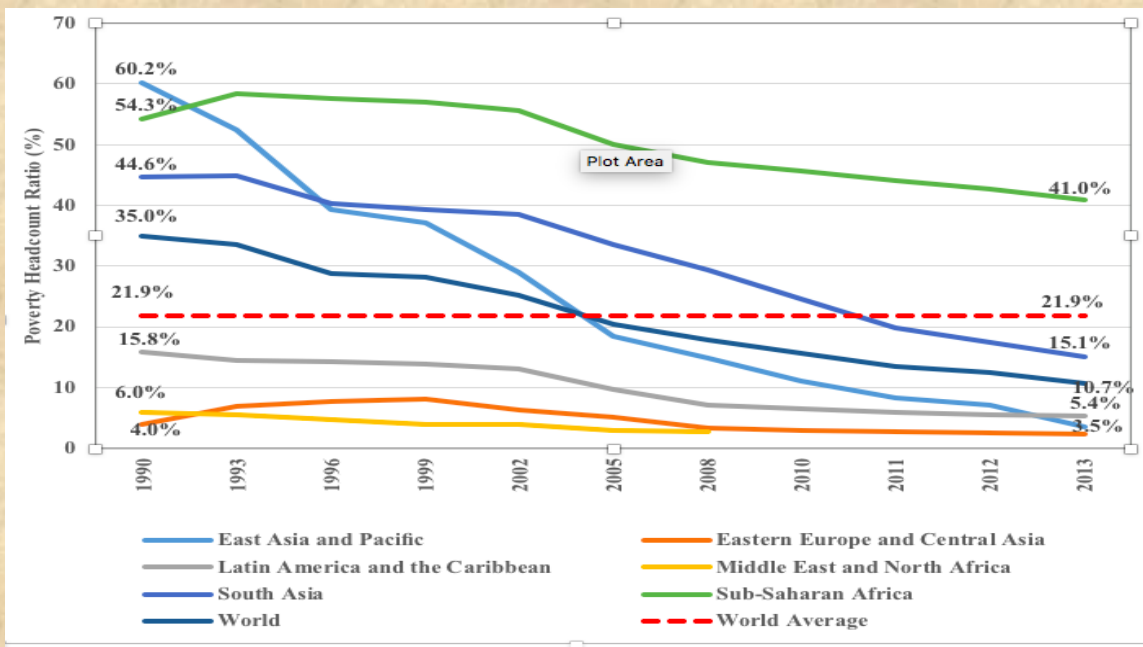
Undoubtedly, a profound international cooperation and global governance of the security against the inadvertent, inappropriate, or international malicious or malevolent use of dangerous biological agents or biotechnology or radioactive technology, disturbing the blanket of the earth needs is apt. Yet more than a new international order, reaffirmation of the mutual interests through depoliticized UN like international forums derailed over a period of time would be more appropriate. The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) came into force in 1975 under the auspices of the UN. It bans the development, production and stockpiling of entire category of Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD). It was re-emphasized in the 8th review Conference held in 2019. However, the threat to BWC always remain there as they can really affect a large population very easily at a very low cost, similar to the spread of nCoV-2019 in Wuhan.

My instant worry is where do we stand as a region in this tug of war between the zoologists and the physicists and conspiracy theorists are already active? The societies are relatively conservative while keeping the spiritual leanings close to heart, however, sometimes unreasonable. The domino affects are sporadic. An able administrative and coordinated reassurance at the regional and national levels is more needed to act more proactively against this weaponized virus. Both have largely agro-based economy.

Looking at it fairly, both India and Pakistan were at ease, as signatories of BWC. Permeating from this bio-insecurity is an opportunity for biosafety since the conduct of science largely remains in the hands of the states. The only guarantee which both Pakistan and India need to ensure is the strict adherence to the Convention since non-state actors are not only the potential users of the biological weapons, new technologies and unimaginable changing political contexts can immediately convert the bioweapons attractive to state sponsored attacks in the existing right-wing political thoughts. The growth of *Hindutva* as a radical political thought in India or war against minority ethnic groups would find it more compatible to sync with emerging technologies which are revolutionizing access to deadly germs and toxins.

The financial and economic stress of the lockdown paradox further complicates the South Asian region while plunging its population deep into poverty already having them fall by 248.8 million. Though, according to the World Bank Report, South Asia performed remarkably well in poverty reduction and was able to decline its poverty rates from 44.6% to 15.1% respectively, during 1990-2013. However, the PHI of South Asia is still significantly higher than that of other regions such as East Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Figure below depicts the pace of reducing the Poverty Headcount Index (PHI) of each region along with the world average between 1990-2013.



The reasons given are the protracted political issues amongst the regional states accompanied with intrastate disturbances. The most imperative remains the conflicts between India and Pakistan which have barred the trade relations between the states weaker than the Sub-Saharan region.

Though, in the wake of Covid 19, virus attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tried to rebutton the South Asian Association of Regional Countries (SAARC), and announced to establish a regional fund for the counter measures in a video conference held in March 2020, however, how likely it would be to share the complete information on the common enemy accurately? In the backdrop of continuing controversial brutal steps being taken by India to devoid the freedom of living with the special status under Article 370 given by the Indian Constitution itself to the people of Jammu and Kashmir or the introduction of non-democratic Citizenship Act against its own

Muslim population, any joint venture for biosecurity, whether from natural or man-made pathogen, would remain farfetched. It remains inherently glued to both the benevolent and malevolent intent. Moreover, the experience of Smiling Buddha in 1974 lies afresh in the Pakistan strategic thinking. An integrated and regulated civil and military approach to address the threat is the only viable option.

Covid 19 has already lessened the burden of public awareness, yet the economically stressed nations of South Asia are passing through the added strains of biological warfare. This too needs a more collaborative across the board regional approach by devising a Regional Biological Defense System with effective policies and practices.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/04/10/biosecurity-reawakening-of-new-realities/>

Pakistan's Quid Pro Quo Plus: A Key Strategic Determinant

Haris Bilal Malik

Since the formulation of its 1999 'Draft Nuclear Doctrine' (DND), India has gone through gradual shifts in its doctrinal posture. India's initial stance was that it would maintain a policy of 'No First Use' (NFU). However, the first amendment to this draft, which came out in January 2003, was based on the Indian Cabinet Committee on Security's (CCS) review of the nuclear doctrine. It stated that if the Indian armed forces or its people were attacked with chemical or biological weapons, India reserves the right to respond with nuclear weapons. Subsequently the notion of a pre-emptive nuclear strike has emerged within the discourse surrounding the Indian strategic community. Moreover, quite recently, in an apparent shift from its NFU Policy on August 16, 2019, India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh asserted that India might review its NFU policy based on future circumstances. Such assertions would likely provoke Pakistan to further strengthen the policy of 'quid pro quo plus' as a viable response option against nuclear and conventional threats from India.

Unfortunately, the current security architecture of South Asia revolves around India's irresponsible behaviour as a nuclear state. Pakistan, due to the Indian desire to establish its regional hegemony, has maintained a certain balance of power to preserve its security. Contrary to India's declared NFU policy, Pakistan has never made such a commitment or statement and has deliberately maintained a policy of ambiguity concerning a nuclear first strike against India. The 'minimum credible deterrence' which forms the very basis of Pakistan's deterrence posture has over the years evolved into an assurance of full-spectrum deterrence. Furthermore, this posture asserts that since Pakistan's nuclear weapons are for defensive purposes in principle, they are aimed at deterring India from all kinds of aggression. In the same vein, even now, Pakistan is likely to keep its options open and still leave room for the possibility of carrying out a 'first strike' as a viable deterrent against India if any of its stated red lines are crossed. In this regard, Pakistan's policy of 'Quid Pro Quo Plus' (QPQP), that has been assured with the combination of nuclear deterrence and conventional capabilities, seems to be an appropriate and reliable strategic resort given the emergent security dynamics of South Asia, especially since 2019.

It is pertinent to highlight that the 'Quid Pro Quo Plus' (QPQP) is based on an assertion that India would not be allowed to consider Pakistan's nuclear capability as a bluff, and that Pakistan reserves all other options as well to protect its territorial and ideological integrity. In addition to Full Spectrum Deterrence (FSD), Pakistan has maintained credible conventional responses, keeping in view India's desire to wage either a limited or low-intensity conflict. Pakistan's FSD is not believed to be aimed at deterring a surgical strike by India; rather it is

intended to deter a war, ranging from a limited to an all-out war. This has not only strengthened the credibility of Pakistan's nuclear deterrence but has also enhanced conventional deterrence against India, which enjoys significant conventional superiority. With such a strategic trajectory, Pakistan would likely maintain a vital strategic balance in the conventional and nuclear equation vis-à-vis India. This would serve as a key determinant of the current state of strategic stability in South Asia.

It is worth mentioning here that, Pakistan's nuclear doctrine and policies are aimed at assuring its security and preserving its sovereignty. This has been carried out by deterring India with the employment of both minimum credible deterrence and full-spectrum deterrence capabilities. In this regard, Pakistan has developed its missile technology based on short, intermediate and long-range ballistic missiles. Pakistan's tactical missile 'Nasr' for instance, is believed to have been introduced essentially in response to India's limited war doctrines. This provides further assurance that India would be denied the initiation of a low-intensity conflict and escalating the situation which could provoke Pakistan towards a massive retaliation. Moreover, the induction of 'Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicles' (MIRVs), the development of land, air, and sea-launched cruise missiles, and the provision of a naval-based second-strike capability, have all played a significant role in the projection of the 'quid pro quo plus' notion.

Hence at the present, it seems likely that India aspires to project itself as a regional hegemon and a potential superpower. India's policies are aimed at destabilizing Pakistan's pre-existing deterrence framework comprising nuclear and conventional force postures. In such circumstances, Pakistan's threat perception would likely remain increasingly inclined towards its eastern border. Pakistan, based on its principled stance of being a responsible nuclear weapon state, does not want to counter India toe-to-toe concerning its military aspirations and hegemonic designs. Based on the undeniable threats from India to its existence, Pakistan must preserve the deterrence equilibrium vis-à-vis India and maintain the 'balance of power' in the South Asian region. Pakistan is already punching well above its weight, and nuclear deterrence along with conventional preparedness would be the only way through which Pakistan can maintain a precise balance of power to preserve its security. This could be further carried out by deterring India with a resort to restrain based on 'quid pro quo plus' policy.

<https://strafasia.com/pakistans-quid-pro-quo-plus-a-key-strategic-determinant/>

Balancing Great Power Competition with Strategic Stability – The Troubling Case of South Asia

M. Waqas Jan

Against the backdrop of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and the impending US elections, the last few weeks have seen both the US and China exchange a growing level of allegations against one another. These include President Trump's repeated allusions to the Coronavirus as the 'Chinese Virus' as well as the Chinese Foreign Ministry's own claims of the virus having originated in the US. This blame game over the origins of the ongoing global pandemic belies a serious lack of cooperation between these two global powers that would otherwise only benefit the world at large. However, what's more dangerous is the realization that these accusations are essentially part of a worsening trend that has seen this great power rivalry extend to additional spheres with little to any indications of receding. In effect, reverberating through some of the world's most divisive geo-political fault-lines such as the fragile strategic balance that is already under threat in South Asia.

This is evident in the latest back and forth between the two powers where recent US media reports have hinted at China conducting secret nuclear weapons tests in contravention of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), as well as its own moratorium on nuclear testing. Citing an upcoming report from the US State Department's Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance (AVC), these allegations were first published in the Wall Street Journal followed by an unequivocal rebuttal from the Chinese Foreign Ministry. The allegations being that China; due to increased activity at its Lop Nur test site, as well as its alleged attempts at interfering with the monitoring activities of international agencies, may be carrying out low-yield nuclear weapons tests as part of its attempts at expanding its strategic weapons arsenal.

Whereas the official AVC report does not amount to a direct accusation on its own, the very fact that it raises such allusions against the backdrop of the growing strategic mistrust between both countries points towards the addition of a very public and dangerous dimension to the US-China rivalry. This holds all the more importance considering that the US, since releasing its last Nuclear Posture Review (NPR 2018) as well as its official doctrine on Nuclear Operations last year, has itself emphasized the importance of developing and incorporating low-yield nuclear weapons in restricted battlefields and/or theaters of operations. The recent deployment of the US's new W76-2 SLBM for instance, stands as a highly pertinent case in point. As such, the US has itself increasingly emphasized the suitability and usability of such tactical nuclear weapons in smaller regional conflicts which it has increasingly come to consider as manageable and even winnable.

Furthermore, considering how the NPR 2018 already communicated the US's unequivocal refusal to ratify the CTBT, such accusations against China – and even against Russia last year – are indicative rather of the US's own desire to withdraw from the CTBT. This for instance has been evident in the growing criticism being levelled against the CTBT by influential Republican senators such as Tom Cotton and Marco Rubio. Hence, coupled with the US's growing emphasis on nuclear warfighting, as well as its much-vaunted modernization of its nuclear weapons systems under President Trump, these developments represent a far cry from President Obama's decade old vision of a world without nuclear weapons built on restraint and gradual disarmament.

However, the fact remains that the US in so candidly outlining its growing strategic rivalry with China (and Russia) risks setting certain precedents which pose far serious and more immediate risks for the world at large. These risks include upending the precarious strategic balance between nuclear armed India and Pakistan, both of which have yet to sign the CTBT, let alone ratify it. This holds all the more importance considering that both India and Pakistan, on top of their own decades' old animosity, have become increasingly embroiled in this great power rivalry.

For instance, the US and China's respective and highly publicized cooperation with India and Pakistan – particularly following the US-India and Pak-China Nuclear deals – are indicative of the strong politico-economic and strategic ties which both these powers have individually cultivated with the two South Asian rivals. Be it the primacy awarded to Pakistan in China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the form of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor), or the key role being played by India in containing China as part of the US led Quadrilateral Framework (Quad); both instances represent some of the most recent iterations of how this great power rivalry has unfolded in this particular region over the last decade.

However, considering that both India and Pakistan have themselves just nearly avoided a dangerous escalation following the Balakot/Rajauri incidents from last year, extreme care is required from both the US and China to not let their own rivalry feed into the already fragile situation in South Asia. A region whose escalation dynamics and strategic balance is already closely modeled along the precedents set by the world's great power rivalries. In fact, considering the influence which the US and China have now come to increasingly exert over India and Pakistan respectively, both powers have instead an opportunity to find some common ground over incentivizing greater strategic stability within this particularly volatile region. Especially concerning the looming specter of nuclear war, there exists a rare opportunity for both the US and China to work towards leading and enacting more stringent arms control mechanisms instead of repeating some of the most dangerous and destabilizing trends from the height of the last century's Cold War.

Considering that the global economy is still in the process of recovering from the last 18 month's US-China trade war, and with major alliances being reshaped by the intensified maritime competition between both their navies (especially around the Indo and Asia-Pacific regions); the fact that the US-China rivalry continues to permeate through to all facets of International Relations presents serious risks for international peace and stability. Especially in a time where a black swan event like the COVID-19 pandemic is already forcing governments to radically re-prioritize their domestic and external policies, both the US and China have a rare chance of working together instead of opening up new fronts in their all-encompassing rivalry. Be it over greater strategic arms control, or more concerted efforts at helping eradicate an unprecedented global pandemic, leaders on both sides owe it to the world to offer at least some semblance of a vision where both powers can work together towards a greater good.

<http://southasiajournal.net/balancing-great-power-competition-with-strategic-stability-the-troubling-case-of-south-asia/>

Justifying the Need for Pakistan's Enhanced Counter Force Conventional Deterrence

Haris Bilal Malik

Pakistan's conventional force posture faces severe challenges arising from India's conventional military modernization and its proactive strategies, which India claims would likely stay below Pakistan's nuclear threshold. India enjoys a substantial conventional military superiority over Pakistan. India's aspiration to dominate the region by carrying out an offensive military modernization program is in large part ensured by enhancement of its counter force conventional capabilities. This has served as one of the most destabilizing factors that affect the strategic stability of the South Asian region. Moreover, the provocative counter force conventional developments by India are adversely impacting the security, stability, and strategic equilibrium within the region. Over the last few years, all these factors have provoked Pakistan to revisit and strengthen its deterrence posture at the conventional level.

In recent years, India has considerably enhanced its offensive conventional posture against Pakistan. The notions of 'preemptive surgical strikes' evident in the proactive war doctrines of the 2017 Joint Doctrine of the Indian Armed Forces (JDIAF) and the 2018 Land Warfare Doctrine (LWD) are a testimony to this trend. These assumptions are essentially based on proactive strategies and indirect threats of initiating preemptive strikes against Pakistan starting at the conventional level. Moreover, a highly offensive military modernization program of India is based on developing and acquiring new weapon technologies to form the basis of its counter force conventional capabilities. These include; precision-guided munitions, acquisition of enhanced air defence shields, stand-off weapons, and procurement of advanced fighter jets. This demonstrates India's objectives of achieving escalation-dominance throughout the region at the conventional level.

India's fixation with dominating the escalation ladder at the conventional level was even more evident in the February 2019 Pulwama-Balakot crisis. Under its notion of limited war at the conventional level, India threatened Pakistan with a 'preemptive splendid first strike' and had reportedly entered Pakistan's air space with fighter jets. This led to a dangerous escalation of hostilities at the political and military levels between both countries. Many experts assumed that with such an intrusion, India might have crossed Pakistan's nuclear threshold. Pakistan's full spectrum deterrence posture which falls within the ambit of minimum credible deterrence remained applicable during the crisis. If both countries had escalated further, the situation might have turned into an all-out nuclear war. Nevertheless, Pakistan's resort to respond to India's

aggression turned out to be an 'appropriate response' based on its credibility at the conventional level.

It is worth mentioning here that the modern conventional weapon systems could have a comparable counter force deterrent value which was earlier exclusively limited to nuclear weapons. This implies that in the future, wars with or without the limited use of nuclear weapons could occur. In this regard, India's long hyped 'Cold Start Doctrine' (CSD), despite its fate and practicality in a crisis situation, still serves as an important provocative conventional war doctrine. In response to potential Indian proactive war strategies, Pakistan has been compelled to develop its low-yield, tactical range missile 'Nasr' capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear warheads. This 'battlefield' missile is regarded as the last resort option against Indian provocative limited aggression. Such preparedness by Pakistan has no doubt enhanced and strengthened the posture of full-spectrum deterrence at both conventional and unconventional levels. At the same time, given the limited resources, it also serves as a cost-effective neutralizing factor against India's proactive war strategies. Furthermore, it complements Pakistan's conventional forces, neutralizes India's growing technological edge, and bridges the conventional disparity between the two countries.

In the same vein, to overcome ever-increasing conventional threats from India, Pakistan needs to actively enhance its counterforce conventional capabilities with the help of indigenous developments and foreign acquisition of hi-tech defence equipment, especially from China and Russia. Furthermore, initiatives such as upgrading cruise missiles to supersonic level, provision of an advanced air defence shield, and development of unmanned aerial vehicles and latest-generation fighter jets are needed to be materialized. This would further enable Pakistan with a much better position to respond to India's aggression at the conventional level specifically. Also, Pakistan would be equipped with a broad range of response options to Indian aggressions, hence simultaneously increasing the nuclear threshold. Pakistan would not be forced to retaliate with nuclear weapons as the most reliable response to limited conventional aggression by India. Therefore, Pakistan's credible conventional deterrent would likely decrease the chances of a conventional confrontation in the South Asian strategic landscape.

Hence at present, the persistent conventional asymmetry in South Asia primarily based on India's enhanced counter force military modernization and revisions of its conventional war doctrines serves as a severe challenge. Being threatened by this, Pakistan would be provoked to revisit its conventional approach vis-à-vis India and further strengthen its conventional capabilities. Such an equation would likely keep deterrence stability of the region under constant stress as there could be a possibility of a limited conventional war between two nuclear-armed adversaries staying below their nuclear thresholds. Nonetheless, the limited conventional response has become an appropriate option in the event of any conventional and sub-

conventional level confrontations as evident from recent examples. In this regard, Pakistan has to be vigilant and conscious of the evolving nature of the threat spectrum in the South Asian region. Therefore, Pakistan needs to enhance its conventional deterrence as a part of its overall deterrence posture. This could justifiably be done with a re-assessment and enhancement of the full spectrum deterrence at the conventional level.

<https://foreignpolicynews.org/2020/04/24/justifying-the-need-for-pakistans-enhanced-counter-force-conventional-deterrence/>

Global Crisis: A Shift in Global Order with Emergence of Symbiotic Relationship

Hananah Zarrar

COVID-19 has exposed the inability of present security mechanisms, regionally as well as internationally, to deal with a crisis of such unimaginable extent and nature. Where states kept on strengthening their defense and security mechanisms with technological advancements, post-1945 Human Security perspective kept on fading and is somewhere left unattended in recent decades. The prevailing panic situation across the globe and crashing credibility of governments' securing their societies, is factually due to the outbreak of spontaneous challenge which was not earlier thought to be happening with such a devastating impact. Thus, the current pandemic forces the governing bodies from all around the globe to reconsider their preferences of security paradigms.

In the wake of COVID-19 and consequent reversing of globalization, the new isolationism is temporarily under process. As the concept suggests, isolationism is the state's reluctance to international engagement and commitments while having an inward-looking policy. It is, in other words, the reduced diplomatic activity. This emerging isolationist approach is less like American isolationism as its core cause resides in human social limitations rather than that of a state. With a core objective of securing humanity from this existential threat, states are encouraged to deal it individually yet collectively struggle for a common cause worldwide.

After 1945 atomic bombing of Japan and ensuing human catastrophe, the current pandemic is the second major event that emphasizes the pre-dominant significance of human security perspective in broader security mechanisms of the globe. Highlighting the current scenario, none around the world had anticipated the Wuhan crisis to be transforming into global crisis and kept watching the spectacle till it became their own nightmare in matter of days. Neither realized the actual lack of proactive and crisis managing leaderships in countries like Italy and Spain. Now, the United States faces the same challenge. It is evident that none of the country was ready for such calamity. This spontaneous global pandemic has exposed the true crisis management and organizational capacity of almost all the sovereign states around the world irrespective of technological or economic superiorities. It highlights the significance of degree of intra-coherent nature of national governments and social structures of their societies.

While, international community and organizations can only assist and emphasize unity, it's the national governments which can play significant role in generating a complex symbiotic relationship from all across the globe. In recent remarks, Secretary-General António Guterres urged worldwide solidarity in facing the crisis and observed that coordination of global responses

would help to conquer the virus. Once the emergency situation lowers, the Council may wish to thematically consider a briefing on the various security and humanitarian preferences post COVID-19. Thus, international community can only act as secondary or assisting body while the governments are the primary doers.

The temporary isolationist approach discussed above is likely to vanish soon after the normalization process begins whether it's with natural or artificial remedial options. The following time period would be decisive in terms of global shift in security preferences and could give birth to new era of mutual benefit among nations. States could and would be wise enough to learn from nature and opt a symbiotic relationship among each other globally. Type of symbiotic relationship here is Mutualism which promotes a beneficial relationship between two parties. Multiple mutualism exists between more than two parties/organizations/states. This outbreak has reminded states of being globalized entities with inter-connected survivability.

Post-COVID-19 world demands a less offensive and more cooperative world with a major shift from state to human security perspective. While keeping the human security perspective in view, a soon to emerge new world order after the pandemic is over, would be focused on health assisting mechanisms for the countries worse affected. Countries with effective management and capable of making proactive decisions in this crisis would rather be taken as examples to learn from. There would be a major transition in states' reputes and position in global world order based on these capabilities. Major and sophisticated powers might not be considered as major anymore in true sense owing to how inadequately they performed during this calamity. This whole transition alludes to a world rapidly moving towards a multipolarity with equal status.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/04/24/global-crisis-a-shift-in-global-order-with-emergence-of-symbiotic-relationship/>

India's ISR Capabilities: Implications for Pakistan

Haris Bilal Malik

Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) per se are not a new concept and have existed since early time of wars depending upon their need and utility in a particular event. For hundreds of years the intrinsic value of ISR remained unchanged, yet the character has considerably evolved. Within the South Asian context, India is fast keeping up with the evolving technological advancements. One of the major requirements of the Indian armed forces is maintaining and strengthening its Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. This is the reason that India is actively looking for foreign ISR capabilities while simultaneously working towards indigenized ISR capabilities. In fact, in 2017, Indian Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat realised the need for indigenized ISR capabilities.

States need sophisticated and advanced ISR capabilities for conventional and nuclear deterrence to prevail, both in the times of peace and war. A state cannot win a battle without the right knowledge of enemy's capabilities and whereabouts. Peacetime information gathering allows for a vantage point deterring the adversary from engaging into a conflict. Hence conflict avoidance is a highly probable by-product here coupled with a cut above preparedness for future challenges. However, information can only be gathered with the help of surveillance and reconnaissance. Being prepared during peacetime in all aspects enhances a state's operational readiness for wartime especially when it is integrated with command and control along with communication. This explains India's focus on enhancing its ISR capabilities. Availability of battlefield intelligence in the real-time will provide India the capability to read the current situation, broadly define the future course, assess the difference between the two, and envision major actions that link them.

An Indian Multi Agency Centre and National Intelligence Grid play an integral role in synergizing intelligence. India's ISR capabilities include space-based ones like INSAT, Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, Radar Imaging Satellite, aerial ones like UAVs that include Lakshya, Nishant, Kapothaka, Puma to name a few, and aircraft and helicopters and Airborne Early Warning Radars and Control Systems (AEWACS). Heron UAV of the Air force has also been assigned the task of intelligence and surveillance. Ground based ISR capabilities include Daksh, a remote ground sensor. The Regiment of Artillery is using the Israeli assisted Searcher for Surveillance and Target Acquisition (SATA).

India signed an agreement with US in year 2018 named, Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) trying to procure armed Sea Guardian Drone or Predator-B drone for effective intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. Predator-B is not only capable

of information gathering but can also fire “Hell Fire” missile and smart bombs. It is capable of flying at high altitude, with jamming proof systems like protected GPS, IFF (identification of friend or foe) receiver and has the ability to re-arm as well. Besides, Predator-B, India is also in the process to acquire missile armed Heron TP drones from Israel worth \$ 400 million. Fleet of Harpy UAVs is also part of Indian inventory. Harpy technology is also acquired from Israel but is not equipped with missile. To counter India drone UAVs technology Pakistan has also made its indigenous drone named Burraq, capable of firing laser guided missile. Moreover, Pakistan plans to buy 48 armed Chinese Drones, Wing Long II, after the COMCASA and S-400 deal.

India has been employing its drone’s technology for intelligence and surveillance purpose across the LoC violating the air space. In January 2019 Pakistani troops had shot another spy quad-copter in Bagh sector along the LoC and in March 2019 according to the ISPR, the army had shot down a quad-copter in Rakhchikri Sector along the LoC when it came 150 meters inside Pakistan. There have been regular and increasing violations from Indian side. Most recent intrusion by Indian quad-copter violating Pakistan’s airspace took place in Sankh Sector along the Line of Control during the first week of April 2020 where it intruded 600 meters inside Pakistan’s territory for conducting surveillance.

The growing competition in ISR capabilities and Information warfare compels Pakistan to venture into dual use remote sensing satellites and designated military satellites, to not only have real time intelligence but to increase the endurance and range of its drones as well. No doubt Pakistan has made substantial progress in developing the ISR capabilities but the strategic elites in Pakistan are still skeptical. Lagging far behind, Pakistan needs to bolster its efforts to develop sophisticated ISR technology infrastructure to counter India’s ISR capabilities. ISR capabilities are the vital apparatus that increases the chances of victory manifold.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/24042020-indias-isr-capabilities-implications-for-pakistan-oped/>

Indian Increasing Defense Budget and Military Modernization: Security threats for Pakistan

Irfan Ali

Indian federal government has announced \$66.9 billion defence budget for fiscal year 2020/21 which represents a 9.4 percent increase in MoD's overall allocation as compared to the allocation for the previous fiscal year 2019. According to the Indian government's Press Information Bureau (PIB), the defence budget accounted for 15.49 percent of the federal government's total expenditure for the upcoming fiscal year. During recent visit of President Trump to India in February 2020, both President Trump and PM Modi agreed to sign military deals worth more than \$3 billion. Furthermore, President Trump stated that "We make the greatest weapons ever made. Airplanes, Missiles, Rockets, Ships. We make best and we're dealing now with India. But this includes advanced air-defence systems and armed and unarmed aerial vehicles". In 2018, India signed a \$5 billion deal with Russia for purchasing of Russian S-400 surface to air missile systems. In addition, Russia's Federal Service for Military and Technical Cooperation (FSVTS) in the previous year revealed that India has ordered \$14.5 billion of Russian-made weapons which made it the largest buyer of Russian military hardware. Moreover, the Indian foreign secretary said that Delhi and Moscow wanted to increase their annual trade to \$30 billion by 2025.

Previously, India's cabinet cleared \$2.6 billion purchase from Lockheed Martin Corporation of 24 multi-role MH-60R Seahawk maritime helicopters to Indian navy. In addition, Lockheed Martin and Boeing (Global Defence Companies) are bidding for a contract to supply the air force 114 combat planes in a deal estimated at \$15 billion. Furthermore, a report published in Live Mint on 9 September 2019, which explained that the official document by India showed the government would spend \$130 billion for fleet modernization in the next 5-7 years across all armed forces. Moreover, Delhi approved purchase of arms from the U.S worth \$1.8 billion in which air-defence radars and missiles, rifles, and other equipment are included. India is the world's second-largest arms importer after Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) estimated that Delhi alone accounted for 9.5% of global weapons import. Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in February 2019, during a federal budget announcement in parliament told that "Defence is our major spending and we give it as much as the budget allows". Moreover, according to the New York Times and Live Mint, the recent Indian Budget speech is the longest ever delivered by any Indian Finance Minister since February 1860.

As far as the Indian domestic industry with regard to Make-in-India drive is concerned, PM Modi led Indian government has been putting in massive efforts to increase its domestic

production and military modernization. PM Narendra Modi has also announced to appoint a chief of defence staff (CDS) to increase coordination among all forces who would act as head of Indian Air Force, Army, and Navy. Along with this, India keeps the world's second-largest military after China therefore Indian FM Nirmala stated that we have to increase our defence budget which will help us in our military modernization. India is the largest buyer of Israeli military equipment and now accounts for 46 percent of Israel's arms exports that raises many questions over Indian military buildup along with regional security threats particularly security concerns for Pakistan. A large part of the Indian Army is deployed on the border with traditional foe Pakistan. In addition, there is high demand among the Indian forces for sophisticated weapon to fight against Islamabad, the arms such as assault rifles, surveillance drones, and body armour etc. Furthermore, the demands of Indian Airforce are also rising which request for the hundreds of sophisticated and latest combat planes and helicopters to replace the old ones. While the Indian Navy has been planning for dozens of submarines to counter the expanding presence of the Chinese navy in the Indian Ocean. This portrays a dangerous situation for Pakistan in wake of increasing Indian military modernization.

When the whole world grappling with the Coronavirus employing all their abilities, skills, money and efforts to fight off the pandemic, India still prefers Arms over Masks. PM Narendra Modi's policies and actions are becoming worrisome not only for Pakistan but also for the whole South Asian region. For instance, PM Modi recently agreed to buy light machine guns from Israel instead of buying masks and other medical equipment to effectively face the growing threat of Covid-19. Though PM Modi's is vehemently being criticized by activists and human right groups, he still went ahead with arms deal with Israel worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The Indian government released a statement about supply of 16,479 light machine guns worth \$116 million by Israel. In this regard, leader of the left-wing Communist Party of India CPI-ML, Kavita Krishnan said that "Why is the government of India choosing to spend massively on a military purchase instead of prioritizing a corona relief package, medical infrastructure, free healthcare and testing for all?". This move of buying arms is not only criticized within India by various writers and activists but also by other South Asian states especially Pakistan. This shows the intensions and extremist as well as hawkish policies of PM Modi that could cause severe threats for the security of Pakistan. Indian government's policies and actions show undiplomatic behaviour that mostly aims at threatening Pakistan. A professor at the University of Delhi, Apoorvanand, said that "Modi is taking India on the course of demagoguery, and this is all it has to offer the people".

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/04/25/indian-increasing-defense-budget-and-military-modernization-security-threats-for-pakistan/>

Post Pulwama India-Pakistan Relations Under the Light Of War Mongering Indian Media

Sher Bano

On February 14th 2019, a native of the Pulwama district in the Indian occupied Kashmir named Adil Ahmed Dar carried out a suicide attack and killed 40 Indian security personnel. This was the deadliest terrorist incident in Kashmir in three decades. This incident propelled yet another war of narrative between India and Pakistan which had the potential to start a real one. Before any investigation was conducted Indian media, political leadership and Indian military started jingoistic propaganda against Pakistan, asserting that Pakistan was responsible for the attack. Indian media through its electronic, print and social channels tried their best to create a war hysteria by adopting war-mongering aggression against Pakistan and thus brought the diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan to its lowest ebb.

One of the documentary filmmakers commented on Pulwama attack that “Every time an incident like this happens, before a government can respond, before the military responds, the media immediately jumps the gun asking for war”. After the Pulwama incident occurred Aljazeera conducted a report on the Indian media and noted that media descends into unjournalistic rating especially during the prime time. For example, a famously aggressive news anchor Arnab Goswami said the day after the attack “We want revenge not condemnation... it’s time for blood, the enemy’s blood”. Even the wife of one of the soldiers was attacked online when she questioned the failure to prevent the attack and advocated peaceful dialogue with Pakistan. Indian media tried its best to link Pulwama with Pakistan, but their hurried approach embarrassed them on many occasions. For example, the Indian media claimed that a Pakistani cleric named Abdul Rasheed Ghazi who died in 2007 was behind the attack. Some of them also claimed that he was killed by Indian army after the Pulwama attack. Indian media kept on shouting for revenge for the crime Pakistan had not committed.

The nationalist BJP government answered the call for revenge when they apparently launched a surgical strike against Pakistan by invading Pakistan’s airspace. They claimed to have killed 300 terrorists in Balakot. Pakistan however agreed that its airspace was violated by Indian jets, but no terrorist base was destroyed apart from some trees. Indian media, adopting their official narrative went hysterical with pride, one of the news anchor Gaurav Sawant tweeted India should strike again and again. In an attempt to validate their surgical strike Indian media used the video of a flying jet as an evidence to the attack. This attempt also backfired as it was the video of a Pakistani jet flying over Islamabad 3 years ago. Moreover, the Indian rhetoric was shot down by the international media when New York Times published views from two western

military analyst and security officials, who maintained that no terrorist base in Balakot was attacked. High resolution satellite images by the San Francisco based company also proved that the buildings that were targeted were still standing.

Pakistan and India later on indulged in a dodge fight when Pakistan shot down two Indian jets which had entered Pakistan's airspace. One of the pilots was captured by the Pakistan army. Indian media accepted that India lost a singular MiG-21 but also claimed that India had also downed F-16. Pakistan refuted the false claims yet again. The international media also supported Pakistan because India failed to provide any evidence of shooting down an F-16. Pakistan proved it had captured wing commander Abhinandan by showing the footage of his downed jet. Indian media was once again proven wrong and bogus. Picture and video of alleged F-16 flashed everywhere by India media also proved false as the exhaust of the jet shown was similar to R-25 engine found on MiG. Moreover, wing commander Abhinandan himself criticized Indian media by saying that "Indian media always stretches the truth. The smallest things are presented in a very provocative manner and people are misled".

Pakistani media on the other hand behaved in a responsible manner. It strictly relied on fact checking while successfully smashing the Indian false propaganda around Pulwama. Pakistan even decided to release the captured Indian pilot Abhinandan within 24 hours as a gesture of goodwill and peace. Even though this gesture of peace was appreciated by the international community, Indian media claimed that Pakistan obligated to do so under the law of "Geneva Convention".

Hence one can evidently see how Indian media continues to play a huge role in deteriorating India-Pakistan relations. The rhetoric was to put pressure on the already hawkish government to retaliate in some way especially because elections were around the corner. It was really alarming to see the way Indian news media, especially television contributed to that pressure, trading journalistic responsibilities for tabloid hysteria. Instead of behaving as medium to resolve conflict between the two countries, Indian media is still misleading its people with dangerously misplaced ideas about the glories of battle and victory.

<http://southasiajournal.net/post-pulwama-india-pakistan-relations-under-the-light-of-war-mongering-indian-media/>

WHO at Deflected Crossroads of Politics

Shamsa Nawaz

Contributing between \$400 million to \$500 million annually, to the Geneva-based international health forum since the recent years, apparently impetuous announcement of suspending funds by President Trump for 60 to 90 days has appalled the world. The greatest global public health challenge, due to indiscriminate and widespread pandemic of Covid 19, holds massive economic and social consequences the societies have seen in hundred years. The decision is certainly disdainful for any international collaboration to ensure WHO's broad-based mandate which advocates universal healthcare, monitors public health risks, coordinates responses to health emergencies, and promotes human health and wellbeing. So far politically oblivious interdependence of the world community in the field of health, met through cooperative technical assistance required by the scientists and has aptly resided in the leadership resources of WHO.

Ever since its formation in April 1948, the agency has set international health standards and guidelines, and collected data on global health issues through the World Health Survey despite limitations, both circumstantial and economic. If one reflects on WHO's leading role in several public health successes in the eradication of smallpox, the near-eradication of polio, and the development of an Ebola vaccine, the work is encouragingly notable in all the strata of developed and developing countries. Similarly, the current emphasis on the communicable diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, Ebola, malaria and tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases such as, heart diseases and cancer, have all received an appropriate response by shared knowledge from all parts of the world.

What made President Trump take this decision when it could endanger the fast ending of the pandemic corona virus through collective efforts? Professor Peter Piot from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said, "We need the World Health Organization now more than ever (in the wake of pandemic Covid 19). Its technical expertise, guidance and leadership is supporting countries to implement optimum science-based strategies to prevent and control Covid-19, and will catalyse global action against future health emergencies." What made Trump announce that WHO's warnings about the coronavirus and China were insufficient? He has accused this international body of "severely mismanaging and covering up" the threat, even though it declared a public health emergency on January 30, 2020.

Trump's decision has regrettably divided the world opinion. The publication of a communique by G20 health ministers that committed to strengthen WHO's mandate in coordinating a response to the global coronavirus pandemic also got hindered by his policies. US erstwhile insistence on

the G7, a smaller group of western countries, to agree on the position of declaring the virus as a China virus had already divided their foreign ministers to take a common position.

Mark Suzman, chief executive of the Gates Foundation, who is also the second largest funder of the WHO after the US, has not only strongly condemned Trump's decision but has also increased \$150m donation towards the hunt for a vaccine, for which the foundation plans to build factories and therapeutics.

Similarly, Boris Johnson's spokesman expressed his disagreement while recognizing the collective role of the world to tackle this shared threat. UK decided to continue with its funding for the international body.

Already, the Covid 19 is subject to several controversies between the pro and anti-vaccine lobbies and the US power centers. Behavior of the virus at various regions of the world has also made it controversial while endangering the ethnic and racial harmony. The time for a united struggle against the common threat is more needed. The issue is not only confined to the eradication of the disease but also the division of institutions from bureaucracy to scientists and medical practitioners around the world, who would be circumstantially reluctant to enhance the culture of knowledge sharing if WHO's leadership is also politicized.

"The WHO is a place where anxieties and concerns can be discussed without the sense that you are going to be somehow called out," said David Nabarro, professor of global health at Imperial College London, who worked at the highest levels of WHO for many years.

The political priorities of the major powers had never been the concern of WHO ever since its inception even during the times of the communist expansionist theories, to Saddam's Weapons of Mass Destruction or use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime. Even the fear factor conspired in Islamophobia had not been able to influence the collective understanding of the international body for human welfare. WHO's dedication to its core values do not even validly look over the shoulder in fear. Exchanging information, reviewing scientific evidence, and making evidence-based consensus recommendations on disease prevention and control had been a hope for low and middle-income countries alike, while ignoring the twists and turns of the commercial world.

Pakistan had been a major beneficiary. Since January 2020, WHO has supported over 20 COVID-19 reference hospitals across Pakistan with various preparedness and response activities. It includes the distribution of medical equipment, awareness-raising materials and technical support. It being the fifth most populous country in the world, spread over an area of 800 000 kilometers and an estimated population of 173.5 million in 2011, is the largest in the WHO assistance in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Pakistan has experienced several natural and man-made disasters, worst being the massive earthquake of 2005 and militancy in its northern belt creating several health centric issues. A consistently high population growth rate exceeding 2% annually has led Pakistan to being quite a young nation. Comparatively, despite low health budget, the country has been able to develop a multi-tiered health infrastructure. Nonetheless, its poor health indicators such as high maternal, infant and under-5 mortality and a high burden of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis B and C, in addition to a rising trend of non-communicable diseases need help. The United Nations system is already piloting the “Delivering as One” agenda with 14 UN agencies, funds and offices working for health and population with a strong and heavy agenda in Pakistan. Its intersectional support is particularly useful in view of the several social determinants of health such as income poverty, lack of basic education, lack of adequate safe water and sanitation facilities, particularly to the marginalized segments of the population, which once again is huge.

Hence, my worry is, what future does it see for itself or the like-situated disaster prone countries, in the absence of a well-coordinated, well-organised, internationally collaborated human and humane body, if WHO is also put on the cross roads of politics by the power centers of the world?

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/04/26/who-at-deflected-crossroads-of-politics/>