

ABSTRACT

The world over, the concept of security is being questioned, debated and refashioned as a consequence of the end of Cold War. In South Asia too the influence of global changes were felt with the states gaining independence and making attempts to become dominant players in regional politics. It is quite difficult to define security since security for one person or nation may be a source of insecurity for another. The concept of security especially in the regional perspective has to be identified before making any attempts to secure, insecurities.

In the South Asian region, the non-traditional security had always been a vital component during the past. However, the importance of traditional security in addressing some of the conflictual situations in the region can not be undermined. Some of the dominant security issues addressed in this dissertation are presence of nuclear weapons, globalization, political insecurity, misgovernance, poor economic status, and terrorism.

The presence of nuclear weapons has made not only the South Asian region insecure but also the states in proximity to South Asia. India and Pakistan are in a nuclear race and making attempts to deter the other party with nuclear supremacy. Outcome of such a rivalry is hard to visualize. Therefore, every effort should be made to iron out the differences and reinstate the cordial relationship between the two nuclear powers. The Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) could be employed to stabilize the turbulent conditions between India and Pakistan. The impact of globalization is one of the key

issues for the dimension of security in the region. Therefore, the region should be united as a whole to face the challenges of the globalization process.

Terrorism is one of the key sources of insecurities in the region which prevails in many forms such as trans-national, trans-border and state centric. What ever the form, the impact it has on the South Asian region is devastating. Although the terrorism became a widely spoken topic subsequent to September 11 attacks, South Asia is a region that has been badly affected by terrorism, long before that. Subsequent to Sep 11 terrorist attacks, United States declared a crusade on terrorist activities and launched the so called "Global War on Terrorism" (GWOT). In the meantime, US launched a war in Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein and neutralize the suspected weapons of mass destruction which claim to have possessed by the Saddam regime. The outcome of this "Wrong War" brought new justification for Al-Qaeda as an anti-western terrorist group and more hatred towards United States from the Muslim World.

In this backdrop, the South Asian region has two options to fight terrorism. One is to join the US led "Global War on Terrorism" or else to join a multilateral approach led by the United Nations. By analysing the recent anti-terrorist activities of US and the growing hatred it has created amongst the Muslim world, joining a UN led multilateral approach seems to be more beneficial for the future security of the region. As the stepping stone towards a multilateral approach, a regional cooperative framework should be established with the fullest support from the nations, shaking off the past and existing prejudices.