

RESTRICTED

ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka emerged after three decades of bloody civil war with LTTE and the war finally ended in 2009 with the total military defeat and annihilation of LTTE and its leadership.

Various challenges faced the armed forces of Sri Lanka soon after 2009, and they had to change roles soon to aid the people living in the Northern and Eastern areas back on their feet. This work was incredibly tedious in the absence of any other government agency's ability to do this task especially in the initial stages of humanitarian operations. This research examines the situation in the conflict areas soon after the end of the conflict with LTTE and aims to establish the critical role played by the armed forces of Sri Lanka in avoiding conflict reoccurrence. The research compares the conditions prevailing in Sri Lanka to the ingredients for these theories to come true to establish whether conditions were ripe for another conflict reoccurrence. This research endeavours to qualitatively analyse the role of armed forces vis-a-vis the post-conflict challenges and what future challenges await the armed forces of Sri Lanka to take the country towards sustained peace and not a relapse of conflict.

The research reveals the positive role played by the armed forces of Sri Lanka in avoiding conflict reoccurrence. The study also shows the vital role a robust cyber medium mechanism can play in countering the future threats of Sri Lanka. Therefore, the recommendations in the research are instituting adequate measures to gradually reduce the presence of military from these rebuilding activities to retain the competence in core skills of armed forces to meet future challenges and inclusion of a robust cyber defence mechanism as modern military operations move towards intelligence-based operations.