

RESTRICTED

PERMANENT REFERENCE



The work reported in this thesis is the result of candidate's own research carried out in the Defence Services Command and Staff College, at Saragoddara. It is submitted concurrently in candidature for any other degree.

25 October 2015

# **SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIAN OCEAN REGION IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

By

Major MOHAMED FASYH

Dissertation submitted to

The General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka

In partial fulfilment of the requirement for the  
Degree of Master of Defence and Strategic Studies MSc (D&SS)

OCTOBER – 2015


RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

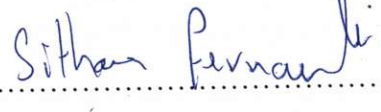
CERTIFICATION OF SUPERVISOR

NAME OF THE STUDENT : Maj Mohamed Fasyh

NAME OF THE SUPERVISOR : Lt Col WBMKGK Weerasekara RWP RSP psc

SIGNATURE OF THE SUPERVISOR : 

NAME OF THE SUPERVISOR : Dr Sithara Fernando

SIGNATURE OF THE SUPERVISOR : 

PERMANENT REFERENCE



## RESTRICTED

### ABSTRACT

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has been the subject of many writings dating back centuries. Even today the number of research conducted in to various topics with regard to the region is numerous. The IOR will continue to hold the world focus for obvious geopolitical and geostrategic reasons. This study attempts to bring to light the effects of geopolitical competition amongst worlds' powerful nations on the nations of the IOR in the current context.

The major powers in the world have been trying to dominate the world or a specific region throughout the history. History indicates the IOR has been the subject of much interest to the world powers for decades. The colonisation of almost the whole region is testament to this unequivocal fact. Even today the interest of the powerful nations is constantly on the IOR with respect to its significance on the events of the world as a whole.

Currently China, India and the United States of America are the most active powerful nations in the IOR. The whole world is currently in political turmoil with a number of conflicts raging in various regions, and the IOR is no exception. The activities of the above said powerful nations has a direct and indirect impact on various factors to the stability of the IOR nations, the region and world as a whole. The competition amongst the three countries has reached new levels.

The context of these activities and the direct effect it has on the IOR will be of huge interest in the coming years. Will this geopolitical competition between the major powers play a role in their status as world super powers or becoming super powers? Will it be the reason of destabilising the whole region, ultimately affecting the whole world? These are important questions, of which a small part will be answered in this paper by analysing the destabilising impact of the geopolitical competition amongst the said powerful nations.