

## **Prevalence of Niche Air Forces amidst Economic Turmoil: Opportunities and Way Forward**

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Air power is the ability of a state to assert its will through the medium of air. Hence, it invariably acts as an instrument of national power. The study explored the predicaments of niche Air Forces (AFs) that are grappling due to economic turmoil. Niche AFs are that do not have a wider array of air power capabilities and able to concert only a few dedicated roles and functions in limited quantum. Air power invariably consumes a larger amount of resources and infrastructure. The current adverse economic situation across the world implicates that niche AFs are facing a massive challenge in their prevalence. The exploratory study resorted to an inductive approach while conducted as a qualitative study. The conceptual framework is based on the review of theoretical studies. The study explored that niche AFs necessary to prioritise their role/tasks according to the fundamental air power roles and national security objectives. A further provision of fiscal allocations must be made proportionately according to the precedence of roles/tasks. Right-sizing the cadre, Multinational corporations through an air diplomacy framework and a human-centric approach for developing a competent workforce would catalyse the relevance of a niche air force ever than before even midst of financial havoc. The study recommends prioritising elements of AFs according to air power roles. Thus, monetary provisions are to be made proportionate to the precedence of roles. Increasing the aircraft to the human percentage by at least up to 1% would permit niche AFs to retain an absolute necessary workforce.

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