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Regional Security Perspectives in South Asia: Indo-Pakistan Rivalry

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ABSTRACT

Inter-state and intra-state conflicts emerged with political, social, and economic factors which increasingly contributed to security dilemmas at global and regional levels. This study investigates the regional security issues which have emerged through the Indo-Pakistani conflict in South Asia. In order to obtain the data for this study, secondary qualitative data and information based on an archival research methodology were used. Books, journal articles, research papers, official websites, and e-Newspapers were incorporated into this archival research. According to this study, the first and second Kashmir wars, the 1971 conflict, the Kargil conflict, the attack on the Indian Parliament, the 2002 Military Standoff, the Mumbai Terror attack, and the Surgical Strikes carried out by India have all contributed to the gradual development of the Indo-Pakistan war, which has led to current concerns about regional security. Interstate strife and tension, hostility between nations, mutual mistrust and animosity posed by terrorism, religious extremism, nuclearization, and economic and political instability have all intensified due to security concerns posed by the Indo-Pakistan rivalry. Finally, as an effort to address these security issues related to the Indo-Pakistani wars, this study has proposed the establishment of a 'South Asian Regional Security Cooperation'. This proposed Cooperation will be treated under four basic regional security corporation models: alliances, collective security, security regimes, and security communities to reinforce regional security in South Asia.

1. Introduction

South Asia frequently reports political, economic, social, and cultural disputes and conflicts due to its exclusive geographical and socio-cultural diversity which is sustained by several languages, ethnic groups, customs, political ideologies, and territorial identities. This scenario often results in chronic turmoil, with negative consequences and cost effects for regional security in South Asia. This disorder is persisted by the conflicts involved between India-Pakistan, Afghanistan-Pakistan, and India-Bangladesh over territories, cross-border terrorism, natural resources, immigrant, and refugees (Idrees & Ayaz, 2015 as cited in Idrees et al., 2017).

Alarming security conditions in war-torn Afghanistan, military rivalry among the region's great powers, nuclearization, historical intra-state tensions and competitions, and widespread and systematic human rights violations are all unprecedented threats to regional peace and harmony in South Asia (Lodhi, 2001 as cited in Yaseen et al., 2016). Further, India as a hegemonic design in the region does not maintain friendly relations between small states in the region (Ayoob, 1991). This nature of the relationships maintained by India with neighboring countries has created tension between nation-states, resulting in inter-state and intra-state conflicts in South Asia.

This paper focuses on the rivalry between India and Pakistan that has escalated into a conflict across three major Indo-Pakistani wars in 1947, 1965, and 1999, as well as a limited battle in 1999 as a result of a long-standing revolt in Kashmir. Following these rivalries, the Kargil war, the water issue, and terrorism have heightened the tension and volatility in South Asia, posing threats to regional security. Moreover, these unresolved conflicts have created several security concerns in South Asia, which are fueled by nuclear competition between India and Pakistan at present (Korbel, 1966 as cited

in Yaseen et al., 2016). This competition might exacerbate regional tensions, especially because the South Asian Region (SAR) has been labeled as the world's most politically unstable region with terrorism, suicide assaults, targeted killings, and assassinations based on political, sectarian, and ethnic lines, etc. (Yaseen et al., 2016).

The major research objective of this study is to find the major security concerns of the Indo-Pakistan rivalry, particularly in South Asia. Therefore, this article primarily determines to underline the major root causes that resulted in the origin of the conflict. In this regard, a series of warfare will be subjected to debate while focusing on a few minor concerns that evolved into a conflict that is now considered an important cause of the conflict. This article investigates the major security concerns delivered by the long-lasting rivalry between India and Pakistan to date. Discussion of this article will deeply investigate the major regional security concerns that emerged from the aforementioned root causes of long-lasting warfare in South Asia which leads to political, economic, and social instability and turmoil in the region at present. Further, it makes suggestions to fill the gaps in security measures in the region to encounter the future threats posed by the Indo-Pakistan rivalry. In conclusion, this study recommends adopting necessary security measures to integrate regional security cooperation signifying a strategic and pragmatic system that can apply in the context of South Asia.

In order to fulfill the above research objectives, this study addresses the regional security dilemmas which emerged in Indo-Pakistan's long-term rivalry. To analyze this problem, this study attempts to find answers to the following sub-research questions. These sub-research questions will be formed in accordance with the hypothesis of this study that this contemporary rivalry could be a result of long-standing animosity that resulted from unresolved issues between India and Pakistan and the Indo-Pakistan war

is currently serving regional security concerns in South Asia as the ultimate result of these unresolved problems. Consequently, the following Research Questions (R.Q.) will be based on the aforementioned hypothesis reflecting the major research problem of this study.

R.Q.1. What are the major security concerns posed by the Indo-Pakistan rivalry in South Asia in terms of regional security?

R.Q.2. What are the security measures that can be further taken to reinforce regional security in South Asia?

In response to R.Q. No. 1, this study will look into the major security concerns posed by the Indo-Pakistan conflict in terms of regional security in South Asia. In addition, the contemporary security context of the region that is affected by the pressing factors of the conflict will be briefly examined under R.Q. No. 1 of this study. Following R.Q. No. 2, this study will investigate the possible regional security measures that can be implemented and applied in South Asia to fill the gaps in regional security procedures in response to the security issues that are posed by long-standing disputes between India and Pakistan. Hereby, this study will focus on four models of regional security corporations which are alliances, collective security, security regimes, and security communities to address the gaps in contemporary security issues in the region. Based on the aforementioned research background, the final outcome of this study fills the gaps in regional security in South Asia, providing important and pragmatic recommendations and solutions to alleviate regional security concerns led by the Indo-Pakistan conflict while reinforcing regional security corporation in the region.

1.1. Literature review

In this literature review, the terms which are **regional security** and **regional security cooperation** will essentially be defined.

While most scholars focus on normative regional security factors/variables and usually pursue quite limited fragmental analysis, B. Buzan, D. Lake, P. Morgan, D. Frazier, and R. Stewart-Ingersoll claim that the differences between regional power, its power dynamics, and structure as determining regional security. Some authors have suggested different typologies of regional security order, however, these typologies only reflect separate, stagnant types of regional security, which are clearly delimited from the other and perceived as fixed, ideal constructions, without analyzing how they are being formed or evolved, and how they change, how different types of regional security orders interconnect with each other (D. Lake, P. Morgan, 1997; B. Buzan, O. Wæver, 2003; D. Frazier, and R. Stewart-Ingersoll, 2008, 2009, 2010; M. Alagappa, 2003; Lembcke, 2009 as cited in Karpavičiūtė, 2010).

States were given an organizational structure during the Cold War period that might provide them with a certain measure of security. As a result, during the conclusion of the Cold War, newly constituted governments were exposed to a number of new regional security complexes, as non-military and political sectors such as society, the environment, and the economy all had the ability to present concerns that could be securitized. Regional security has become increasingly relevant at the regional level as a result of decolonization and power distribution procedures (Roehrs, 2005).

The notion of **regional security** has become particularly significant in the aftermath of World War II (Nye, 1968). Thereafter, this concept was subjected to heated theoretical debates. Buzan and Waever (2003) have significantly influenced the study of regional security because it elaborates on the idea of regional security complexes and applies it empirically. While Kelly (2007) integrates regional security into the overarching framework of the "new regionalism," Lake and Morgan (1997) also use the notion of

regional security complexes in a comparative assessment of the major regional systems. In order to examine American agency in forming the regions of Asia and Europe, Katzenstein (2005) presents the idea of "porous regional orders." While Achyarya and Johnston (2003) are obsessed with the issue of institutional design, Solingen (1998) analyzes regional security orders as the joint product of domestic and interstate coalition formation. Moreover, Lemke (2002) generalizes power transition theory to capture the dynamics of regional security systems, while Fawn (2009) represents the key strands of IR theory and provides a thorough analysis of the increasing importance of regional security systems despite the competing imperative of globalization (Sperling, 2019).

Considering the concept of **regional security cooperation**, the key categories can be identified as; alliances, collective security, security regimes, and security communities that are composed of the concept. *Alliances* are one of the earliest types of regional security cooperation, created for military defense and attack against common external or even internal threats or adversaries in the region. Alliances have the potential to minimize the likelihood of war between their members while fostering confidence, facilitating the avoidance and resolution of disputes, and may be initiating regional collaboration. In the current situation, ASEAN and NATO have performed this type of dynamic in their respective regions (Bailes and Cottey, 2006). Furthermore, the notion of *collective security* developed in the twentieth century was practiced to prevent conflict in response to any act of aggression or threat to peace among its members. The League of Nations which is currently known as the United Nations (UN) was found to safeguard collective security against any intentional aggressive act, based on the same principle which is used at the regional level (Alyson, 2006). *Security regimes*, the third type, are defined as cooperative and generally helpful state conduct rules, and they typically give mechanisms to implement, promote, and

evaluate these norms. A security-related regime may cover general concepts like non-violence and respect for existing international borders, or it may focus on specific weapon kinds and uses, or activities like military movements and transparency. The OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) and other Latin American efforts can be introduced as security regimes that provide regional arms control measures such as nuclear-weapon-free zones or the CFE Treaty of 1990 (Jervis, 1982). A *security community* has been defined as a group of states among which there is a 'true assurance that members of that community will not fight each other physically, but will instead resolve their disputes in some other way' (Deutsch, K. W. et al., 1969 as cited in Alyson, 2006). Karl Deutsch elaborated on this concept in the late 1950s to embody the more far-reaching objectives of post-World War II European integration, which positioned Europe within a larger security community of the world's industrialized democracies. Any of the foregoing forms of security cooperation imply more intense, continuous, and comprehensive engagement than the security community (Alyson, 2006).

However, security narratives of South Asia, according to Barthwal-Datta and Basu (2017), are frequently constrained to specific conflicts, such as the recently concluded wars in Sri Lanka and Nepal, the internal unrest in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Maldives, and the looming shadow of India-Pakistan rivalry. Security in the area has thus been envisioned in fragments, despite South Asia being a security community or security complex. Therefore, the survival of the state and its institutions as well as the maintenance of territorial integrity have continued to be strongly related to national and regional security perceptions among South Asia's political elites. In such a setting, the state level has remained the primary focus of scholarly analysis in terms of regional security, with an emphasis on interstate interactions like conflict and cooperation. As a result, there is a substantial gap in the security studies

literature on South Asia, particularly in terms of epistemologies that contest (neo)realist views of security in the area and approaches that depart from positivist standard security research (Ganguly, 2001; Wolpert, 2010; Hagerty, 1995, 1998; Talbott, 1999; Ganguly and Kapur, 2010; Burns and Price, 2011 as cited in Barthwal-Datta and Basu, 2017).

Based on the above theoretical background, this study is supposed to address the gaps in regional security in South Asia to encounter the threats resulting in the current rivalry between India and Pakistan. Therefore, the discussion of this study will address the security issues that emerged with the war between India and Pakistan in South Asia as a region. The following sections of this research will disclose the regional security concerns that are posed by the current Indo-Pakistan war, which has resulted in a number of unresolved issues. In this scenario, the aforementioned conceptual background would be helpful to assess and address the regional security gaps in South Asia in response to the security dilemmas led by the Indo-Pakistan rivalry at present.

2. Materials and Methods

The archival research methodology which is used in this study will provide an analysis of the problem which will be subjected to debate in this research. The printed sources that can be accessed online served as the basis for this study. In the discussion, the facts and information obtained through archival research were analyzed utilizing the qualitative method.

Since the purpose of this research is to understand and convince the reader regarding the concepts and experiences of the security threats posed by war and the way that can build collective security measures as a region, this research is primarily based on secondary qualitative evidence and information. Through electronic archive research, which included reading e-books, e-journals, e-newspapers, and research papers

with a subjective theme, the evidence and data supporting the study's hypothesis were acquired. In order to evaluate the historical and current context of the conflict as well as the main problems resulting from the escalation of Indo-Pakistani animosity into a regional crisis, a qualitative approach was mostly adopted. Additionally, these qualitative indicators were helpful in assessing the long-term regional security concerns in South Asia posed by the Indo-Pakistan conflict. To study the gaps in current regional security measures required to address the contemporary profile of the Indo-Pakistan conflict in South Asia, this review based on information gathered from historical documents and sources was crucial. The study consequently recognized the long-term Indo-Pakistan rivalry in the region as a threat to regional security. The information that was extracted from this archival research is used to answer the main research question that will lead to the study's conclusion in light of the aforementioned background.

3. Results and Discussion

This section will address the sub-research questions, R.Q.1 and R.Q.2 that have arisen to define the major research question of this study. In response to the R.Q.1, this section will reveal the major incidents that had been posing threats to regional security in South Asia since the beginning of the rivalry. Moreover, this section will investigate the security concerns and threats due to the root-caused incidents of the constant war between India-Pakistan. Further, R.Q.2 will be addressed in the next section providing recommendations to fill the gaps in regional security procedures in South Asia.

This rivalry is particularly concerning for neighboring countries in the region, as well as the international system posing security challenges. In this context, Indo-Pakistan conflicts that cause tension in and between neighboring states have a direct and indirect impact on regional security. Cross-border terrorism, nuclearization, regional instability,

and foreign interventions have established a legacy of Indo-Pakistan rivalry, which could pose a threat to the regional security corporation in South Asia.

3.1. What are the major security concerns posed by the Indo-Pakistan rivalry in South Asia in terms of regional security?

With the split of the Indian subcontinent, Indo-Pakistan relations began to deteriorate. India and Pakistan fought a series of wars after gaining independence from the United Kingdom in August 1947, with the primary cause being the Jammu and Kashmir territories. In this background, millions of Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs were killed, and became victims in their effort to cross the borders either to India or Pakistan in search for shelters and refuge. This escalation of tension over the Jammu-Kashmir territory was a primary cause for revolving Indo-Pakistan relations into a long-lasting rivalry in South Asia (Paul, 2005 as cited in Malik, 2019).

India as a superpower in South Asia has caused fears in the neighboring states regarding their national security, which could be jeopardized at any time due to Indo-Pakistan rivalry. In light of this, member states in South Asia may be concerned about regional and national security as a result of cross-border terrorism between India and Pakistan. Several groups, including political figures, bureaucrats, army personnel, and terrorists, support cross-border terrorism sponsored by Pakistan, disrupting Indo-Pakistan peace endeavors (Harshe, 2003). The continuation of rival activities between India and Pakistan over the territory can lead to large-scale communal holocaust as a result of arm competition at present.

Furthermore, the religious extremism that has evolved as a result of Indo-Pakistan rivalry has a direct impact on regional security in South Asia. Extreme activities launched by *Taliban*, *Al-Qaeda* and *Lashkar-e Tayyeba (LeT)* have intensified the fears and

tensions between South Asian states posing threats to regional security at the present. Terrorism has increased in South Asia, particularly along the Pakistan and Afghanistan borders, where the Taliban has intensified attacks during the last three years. Tensions in Pakistan dramatically soared after the assassination of presidential candidate Benazir Bhutto in 2007, and homicides increased by 20% in the following two years. In India, there are still substantial terrorist activities taking place, particularly near the Pakistan and Indian borders (Chowdhury and Islam, 2017). These activities may pose a threat to the national security of neighboring countries by spreading and fostering terrorism and religious extremism in the region.

The first war between India and Pakistan began with a declaration given by a Hindu king called Maharaja Hari Singh who governed Kashmir that Kashmir would join India. With this proclamation, the Muslim majority who lived in Kashmir joined the Pakistani tribesmen and launched an armed conflict to liberate Kashmir from India's grip. As a result, the Pakistani Government dispatched troops to intervene and Pakistani intervention in the aforementioned incident initiated the first war between Pakistan and India over Kashmir. The engagement of the United Nations (UN) and the United States of America (USA) as third parties in this anarchic situation increased the regional security concerns in SAR, even after the agreement over defense deal signed by Pakistan and USA in May 1957 (Ziring, 1980).

Moreover, the third-party intervention in Indo-Pakistan conflicts may exacerbate regional insecurity in South Asia. The strategic relationships the USA entertained with India included joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean which may raise tensions between China and Russia in South Asia. This may lead China and Russia to back Pakistan in the war against USA and India posing security threats to the entire region. In this context, geopolitical strategies pursued by world

superpowers in South Asia may be endorsed in the region, challenging regional security to extend their support towards India and Pakistan covering the conflict. In the meantime, they are taking efforts to carry out their own foreign policies in SAR. This could lead to another World War in the future.

Regional insecurity may have a negative impact on the regional economy which relies on foreign investments to survive. Over the previous few decades, bilateral trade between India and Pakistan has remained weak despite their status as two superpowers. According to recent assessments, if India and Pakistan signed a bilateral free trade agreement, trade between the two nations might contribute to the regional economy at least ten times more than it does now (Dash, 2013). As a result of the hostile relations between India and Pakistan, economic integration and stabilization have been difficult to attain and justify even through SAFTA (South Asia Free Trade Agreement). India and Pakistan as the two major partners in the SAFTA have disregarded the shared economic security and corporation making it difficult for minor states to rely on the organization due to economic security issues posed by the agreement's two major parties' antagonism. In addition, the performance of the SAARC organization as a major regional body committed to regional security and corporation has lost its independence due to India's dominant involvement in the organization.

Consequently, as a regional organization that can commit to the regional corporation, SAARC has thus far failed to ensure regional security in South Asia against this rivalry at present due to self-centric influences posed by India as a leading member of the organization. In that case, the regional security assured by regional corporations will be jeopardized due to the inexorable nature of the Indo-Pakistan conflict.

The second war on Kashmir began in September 1965 in a different context where India had been defeated by China in 1962 and in the meantime, Pakistan had been equipped with the western military hardware to gain from the Rann of Kutch clash in 1965 against India. After the death of India's founding leader Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964, India lost its political power, allowing Pakistan to play its policies in Kashmir in the last round (Malik, 2019).

After the success of the Awami League Party in the election held in Bangladesh under the control of Pakistan in 1970, however, the power was not transferred to them until March 1971. Hence, its supporters rebelled against the government and the Central Government retaliated against the rebellions by launching a military crackdown. India intervened to control this situation initiating the third Indo-Pakistan war in 1971. In this stage, Pakistan was defeated losing its Eastern wing in Bangladesh. After Zulfikar Ali Bhutto came to power representing Pakistan's People's Party in 1970, Simla Accord was signed between India and Pakistan in 1972 to normalize and restore their relations (Malik, 2019).

According to these incidents, the Indo-Pakistan rivalry existed for more than 50 years and has resulted in political instability, causing people to be tense. Political unrest in India and Pakistan has had negative impacts on the region's per capita GDP growth rate. Moreover, this instability may pose a threat to the economic, social, political, and cultural relations in South Asia. Political instability resulting from the Indo-Pakistan rivalry could easily allow outside forces to exert control over the economies and geopolitics in the region authenticating their foreign policies in SAR.

The first atomic bomb tested by India in 1974 led the region to develop nuclear weapons. Consequently, in 1984, Pakistan was concerned that India was planning to attack its nuclear site in Kahuta near Islamabad with

the support of Israel or Kabul government controlled by the former Soviet Union. In this case, Pakistan was aided by the USA in relation to the attacks of India. However, in February 1987 both sides agreed to call their troops back de-escalating the tension with the help of the USA. In this manner, the external parties have intervened in South Asia behind the long-lasting Indo-Pakistan rivalry causing substantial security concerns in the region (Shaikh, 2002).

The arms race which sustains the Indo-Pakistan rivalry might cause regional fears that can be continued into World War with the intervention of the world's superpowers. This competition often make tensions between two countries and extensively other SAR countries in the region might have fears of sudden attacks led by these two rival camps supported by China and the USA. The employment of nuclear weapons as a result of arms competition between India and Pakistan might cause substantial security concerns both inside and outside South Asia. Nuclearization based on the Indo-Pakistan rivalry might put significant strains on the stability and security of a nuclearized subcontinent. Nuclear weapons that malfunction or are exposed to harsh settings such as fire, flood, and earthquake could cause potential security hazards and risks to the regional society. Nuclear weapons trade and transfer to terrorist groups, extremists, or sub-national actors in the region could result in severe regional security breaches in South Asia.

Moreover, the Kargil War which lasted from May to July 1999 drew widespread global attention while the USA was playing a significant role in de-escalating the tension. Indian parliament attack on 13 December 2001 also spoiled the bilateral relations built between India and Pakistan increasing antagonism between the two countries (Symond, 2001). The military standoff set forth by India in 2002 was a novel notion for limiting the war in practice. However, behind this practice, India wanted to entangle a

nuclear conflict by itself with Pakistan. It was developed into a battle by deploying about one million troops by two adversary states making the largest military accumulation after Second World War (Khan, 2005). Mumbai terror attack launched on 26 November 2006 was a massive violent act that has had long-term detrimental consequences for Indo-Pakistan relations. 166 people were killed in Mumbai, and India suspended its talks with Pakistan, which remains an unresolved problem between the two countries up to date (Malik, 2019). The Surgical Strikes launched by India across the Line of Control (LoC) destroyed the "militant infrastructure". These types of cross-border clashes have occurred since 2015; Surgical Strikes are exaggerating occasional firing incidents.

Human insecurity in the neighboring states could be increased due to these kinds of terrorist activities adopted between India and Pakistan. As a result, the communities of the peripheral countries would have significant threats in their day-to-day lives. The social stability of the neighboring states can be unstable as well, due to the security threats posed by the Indo-Pakistan rivalry. The continuation of threats of the Indo-Pakistan conflict towards regional countries may disrupt the regional corporation in South Asia which could ensure regional security in the future.

In conclusion, the first and second Kashmir wars, the 1971 war, the Kargil war, the Indian Parliament attack, the 2002 Military Standoff, the Mumbai Terror attack, and the Surgical Strikes launched by India may all be characterized as major and primary issues underlying the Indo-Pakistan rivalry at present. Ultimately, the Indo-Pakistan war as a creation of all these enmity incidents has caused regional insecurity losing economic, political, and social integration in the region. Terrorism is a major source of tension, mutual mistrust, and enmity, whilst religious extremism, nuclearization, and third-party meddling are crucial security concerns

underlying the Indo-Pakistan rivalry. These issues might cause frequent threats to regional security in the Asian region while leading the region towards volatility even at the present. The next section of this study will provide potential recommendations on these issues to minimize the regional security concerns created by the Indo-Pakistan rivalry in the future in South Asia.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

Indo-Pakistan rivalry has turned into a long-lasting conflict due to several reasons that are fueled by the partition of the Indian sub-continent, the first and second Kashmir wars, the Kargil War, the Mumbai terror attack, cross-border terrorism, etc. Even at the present, these anarchic conditions that have led to the Indo-Pakistan war are causing substantial security concerns for regional security in South Asia. Primarily, the Indo-Pakistan rivalry has made tension amongst neighboring states challenging their national security interests. Cross-border terrorism exercised by both India and Pakistan may increase the threats to the regional peace and security corporation. Furthermore, the religious extremism and the extreme activities launched by Taliban, Al-Qaeda, and Lashkar-e Tayyeba (LeT) are threatening the peaceful co-existence and the national security of the nations in South Asia. The role of the nuclear weapons of India and Pakistan as well as the series of nuclear testing experienced by these two rival parties may increase the uncertainty and mistrust between the countries in the region. Nuclear weapons that malfunction or are exposed to severe settings could harm and destroy mankind and nature. Terrorist groups, extremists, or sub-national actors might be empowered through the antagonism between India and Pakistan and they may pose threats to regional security. Moreover, the adverse interventions of the world's superpowers as third parties may gain from Indo-Pakistan rivalry by easily entertaining their geopolitical strategies and agendas in South Asia leading to another World War. The

regional instability caused by the tension behind Indo-Pakistan rivalry has permitted foreign externalities to exert control over the political and economic sovereignty in the region. These extreme scenarios that have emerged due to the Indo-Pakistan rivalry at present should be overcome through the promotion of cooperation and negotiation. In light of the foregoing facts, the next section of this study strongly suggests that a "Regional Security Corporation" mechanism be established in South Asia, along with the required measures to ensure regional security against any hostile activities in the region. As a result, this research will be important in the future for understanding the downsides of India and Pakistan's long-standing rivalry, as well as the collective duty and responsibility to end hostilities between these two nations and promote regional security and stability through pragmatic mechanisms and solutions.

4.1. What are the security measures that can be further taken to reinforce regional security in South Asia?

All of the revealing facts in this study that have emerged as security concerns underlying the Indo-Pakistan rivalry should be addressed in order to end the animosity and prevent it from resurfacing to guarantee regional security in South Asia. In this circumstance, all states in the South Asian region should be committed to and accountable for regional security. Thus, this study suggests establishing a dedicated "Regional Security Corporation" mechanism (Alyson, 2006) relevant to Alliances, Collective security, Security regimes, and Security communities to address the regional security alarms in South Asia posed by Indo-Pakistan rivalry.

"Civil and military alliances" have a significant role in ensuring national security in any region's sovereign states. NATO, CENTO, and SEATO can be used as models for forming an appropriate military alliance in South Asia to encounter the regional security

threats posed by the Indo-Pakistan rivalry. In the event of a security threat, this kind of civil and military alliance could actively participate and contribute to the defense of regional security in South Asia.

SAARC member states may find it hard to commit to the South Asian collective security framework, which is led by India as the dominant power in the region. "Collective Security System" should be executed by a dedicated regional organization or an agreement. Thus, the member states of the SAARC organization should have mutual trust in one another. However, Indo-Pakistan rivalry has made mutual animosities derived from their distinct national interests that can threaten the collective security in the region. This background may not be conducive to a collective security mechanism in the region initiated by SAARC to eliminate and combat offensive acts that jeopardize regional peace and security. However, in order to address the regional security concerns raised by the Indo-Pakistan conflicts, South Asian governments should attempt to form an independent collective security system against hostile states to ensure regional security.

Further, "Security Regimes" might also be developed throughout South Asia in order to establish regional security corporations. Hereby, this study suggests that India and Pakistan should engage in non-proliferation regimes such as International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), The National Security Guard (NSG), and Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), etc. on a non-discriminatory basis. These regimes may provide a set of formal and informal principles, rules, and norms that articulate the responsible behaviors of the states towards regional security. This type of strategy could be applied in South Asia to minimize the regional security concerns posed by the Indo-Pakistan rivalry. It would be useful in safeguarding the national security of small states in the region and avoiding the negative influences on

collective security posed by India and Pakistan as powerful states in South Asia.

The "Security Community" is another significant concept that can be introduced and practiced in South Asia to minimize regional security concerns posed by the Indo-Pakistan rivalry. South Asia is composed of multi-cultures, multinationals, and various ethnic groups. Hence, we can see extraordinary ethnic and cultural diversity in South Asia. Within a security community mechanism, this diversity might share identities, values, and meanings; many-sided direct interactions; and reciprocal long-term interests of the regional communities against conflicts and wars in the region. It could make a forum for the minor communities to express themselves and achieve their collective goals through discussions rather than a confrontation with each other. It may have the potential in the promotion of long-term peaceful co-existence through mutual understanding.

SAARC as a regional organization for corporations could be given the authority to administer and monitor the functions of this "Regional Security Corporation". The power division of the SAARC authority over this mechanism could be shared between the SAARC country offices located in SAARC member countries. Then it would be more feasible to access and involve in the cases that violate the regional security procedures.

Further, this mechanism could be implemented with the collaboration of SAARCPOL (SAARC police) to monitor the legal procedures of the mechanism. In such cases, SAARCPOL could be authorized to take necessary action against the regional security violations as per the recommended provisions by "Regional Security Council" which is controlled under SAARC flag. It would be useful to avoid the escalation of unresolved problems into crises in the future. Therefore, it is crucial to administer the "Regional Security Corporation" mechanism through "Regional Security Council" implemented in South Asia to counter the

above-identified regional security concerns while encouraging reconciliation between India and Pakistan to make South Asia a safer place for everyone in the future.

Furthermore, establishing “Nuclear Weapons Free Zones” (NWFZs) in South Asia is an important approach to ensuring regional security against the nuclear weapon practices adopted by India and Pakistan. In this task, the member states in South Asia will be recommended to ratify treaties regarding NWFZs to combat against acquisition, possession, placement, testing, and use of nuclear weapons for both India and Pakistan. This type of treaty could be used to formalize a legally binding agreement to prevent these rival states from threatening or using nuclear weapons against any other country in the region that are signatories to the agreement. The above-mentioned measurements and recommendations suggested by this study would be supportive of implementing a pragmatic mechanism in South Asia to entrust regional security in the future against violence. Consequently, in the process of reinforcing South Asian regional security, this study will contribute to contemporary literature to fill the gaps in regional security studies.

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