



NEWSLETTER

REGIONAL CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES, COLOMBO

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APRIL 2003

THE TENTH SUMMER WORKSHOP

The Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) invites applications from young, Indian, Pakistani and Chinese professionals to participate in the Summer Workshop on "Defence, Technology and Cooperative Security in South Asia" to be held in Shanghai, China from Sept 5-15, 2003.

The main objective of the summer workshop held annually is to provide a forum for young, Indian, Pakistani and Chinese professionals to mutually and collectively examine and understand the major issues of defence, national security, regional stability and confidence building in South Asia. It also encourages a new generation of analysts, commentators and opinion shapers to introduce fresh ideas, perspectives and initiatives to the security debate in the region. Specific goals of the workshop are to:

- equip participants with the information and understanding on conceptual, technical and practical aspects of defence, national security and regional stability in South Asia;
- provide participants with insights into strategic and security thinking in South Asia and China, and how divergences in security perception transform into arms build-up, affect relations between states, evolve into conflict and prevent regional stability;
- stimulate informed discourse on various shades of opinion and thinking in the region, specially on emerging and new ideas, related to the theme of the workshop;

Contd overleaf

Understanding and Combating Terrorism in South Asia Non Traditional Security Issues in South Asia

A conceptualizing and planning Conference titled *Understanding and Combating Terrorism in South Asia*, will be held in Sri Lanka from July 5-6, 2003. This project is part of the Phase II of the Non-Traditional Security programme funded by the Ford Foundation. The four different parts of the project on terrorism are:

1. developing a better understanding of the concept of terrorism;
2. analyzing the question how South Asia can counter, or combat, the terrorist threat in the region;
3. studying the impact of terrorism on women and children and how such problems can be tackled from the policy angle; and
4. developing a database on terrorism, with profiles of terrorist groups in the region.

The overall concept of the project will be given a clear shape and dimension in the regional planning conference of major cooperating institutions. The conference will help finalise some of the key projects and discuss their detailed parameters.

Following up on the first phase of work undertaken by RCSS that attempted to explore non-traditional issues in three selected thematic structures, this second phase, will also make detailed examination of issues through capacity building approaches in the region. This project will look at a gamut of issues involving non traditional security studies with the help of capacity building exercises in the region. It will also work on the nature of changes taking place in the region, along with their significance and their implications

- facilitate objective debate on extra-regional factors and perceptions that affect issues, perceptions and trends in South Asian security; and
- stimulate alternative thinking on defence and security, free from abstraction and polemics, and promote collective consideration of possible options and approaches to stability, confidence building and cooperative security in South Asia.

The course and approach is inter-disciplinary. The following specific issues form the principal focus of the workshop: a) Security: Conceptions, Context & Recent Trends: Defence & Technology: Conventional & Nuclear: & Confidence Building & Cooperative Security in South Asia.

The workshop will be conducted in an informal atmosphere. An internationally reputed expert will deliver the keynote address on the main theme of the workshop. The lectures will be brief, and will highlight the main issues. Special stress will be given to feedback from participants who will be encouraged to offer comments, raise questions and propose solutions. The programme of the workshop is designed to facilitate maximum interaction between participants and faculty, and among the participants themselves. Several panel sessions will be held in which more than one faculty member will lead the discussion on a set of agenda/questions to be provided by participants. The programme will also include simulation exercises with respect to specific issues and instances, and participants-led panel sessions; and C) a series of group meetings. The programme is designed to facilitate maximum interaction between participants and faculty, and among the participants themselves.

Nationals of India, Pakistan and China in the age group of up to 35 years are eligible to apply. In case of deserving candidates, the age limit may be relaxed to a certain extent. Eligible candidates are invited to apply to the RCSS along with the following:

- Full curriculum vitae including full name as in the passport, date of birth, nationality, sex, full contact address (including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address, if any), academic qualifications and experience. Please include name and full contact address of two referees;

- A statement in about 200 words stating future professional objectives and describing how participation in the workshop will be useful;
- List of publications (copy of a recent publication preferably relevant to the theme of the workshop, if any, to be enclosed). If publication is not available, a brief description of current professional activities may be enclosed.
- Two confidential letters of academic reference to be sent directly to RCSS.

Candidates from all related professional background are eligible. Preference will be afforded to those having some exposure to work in the identified areas of the workshop. Evidence of sustained interest in the field and possibility of continued professional work with related policy-making & policy-influencing institutions, media and NGOs are important criteria for the selection. *Women candidates are especially encouraged to apply.*

- English is the working language of the workshop.
- The total number of participants is approximately 30 from all three countries.
- Letter of application with all documents should reach the RCSS *not later than June 20, 2003*. Early submission is encouraged. (There is no prescribed form. All details requested here must be provided.)
- Scholarships are available for selected participants to cover all expenses including economy class airfare, living cost, etc., in connection with the programme.
- Applications will be considered by a Selection Committee designated by the RCSS. Selected candidates will be notified about 4-6 weeks before commencement of the programme.

CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION

The Regional Centre must receive all application material for Summer Workshop by June 20, 2003 addressed to:

Programme Officer
Regional Centre for Strategic Studies
No: 2, Elibank Road, Colombo 5
SRI LANKA.
e-mail: program@sri.lanka.net
Application by e-mail is also welcome.

Following is a summary of commentaries sent to the Discussion Forum on RCSS's website, on "***The Impact of Iraq War on South Asia***" by two regional experts, written from the perspectives of the two countries they represent, Nepal and Bangladesh. For full text of their reports, visit our website:<http://www.rcss.org>

Iraq War and South Asia: South Asian Regional Perspectives

A Perspective from Nepal by Dhruva Kumar

With the recent defeat of Iraq by western coalition forces headed by US, the thirteen yearlong wars on Iraq have come to an end. Already devastated by the war with Iran, Iraq had been adversely affected by the sanctions imposed on her since the end of the Gulf War 1, and finally crumbled under the devastating attacks executed with superior weaponry of the coalition forces. The Gulf war 11 was in effect imposed on Iraq after denuding it from every possible source strength, including the sources of economic and military support.

Freeing Iraq from Saddam Hussein is possible. But, as Adam Garfinkle says, the mission to impose democracy may fail and stock Arab resentment. As against this is Kenneth Pollack's view that democracy should be given a chance in a world where "authoritarianism is deeply rooted". The impact of this war is difficult to be lost, never in Iraq, but also in other countries of the world with lessons crudely learnt and sacrifices reluctantly made.

The American strategic imperative as defined by President Bush is "the security of the United States is the security of the world". Preventive diplomacy as a measure of conflict resolution has quashed through "pre-emption", with military might—a precedent, if established and followed, can bring harrowing consequences in the existing asymmetrical international and regional relationships. The war on Iraq has become just a battle won for the US, but the battle of mistrust it has sown in the world is the real battle far from won.

The hawkish American position that Saddam might use the WMD without any regard for the consequences does not tally the reality when the American forces decimated Baghdad into rubbles. Donald Rumsfeld was the central figure who had courted the Iraqi tyrant and helped develop

the WMD during his stint as President Reagan's special envoy to the Middle East. Condoleezza Rice, deterrent advocate turned pre-emptive strategist, is defending the case for simple deterrence as the first line of defence with the credible threat of national obliteration in retaliation to any use of WMD by Iraq.

The war on Iraq can be described as influenced by the "frustration-aggression" syndrome on the part of the US, as it equated disarmament with the regime change in Iraq. In Freudian psychoanalysis such apprehension is "primordial reaction" to the frustration occurring "whenever pleasure seeking or pain avoiding behavior is blocked". As such, even traditional antagonists of the US recognized the imperative of war against terrorism leading to spread of American influence and burden sharing against the common foe—terrorism. Will this American crusade against terrorism end with the end of war on Iraq? This is unlikely. Pursuing intractable enemies would be the self-conscious American policy in the future.

Terrorism and South Asia

Terrorism has long infested South Asia with home grown terrorist organizations having cross-border terrorist nexus. The two atomic weapon powers' stand-off in the aftermath of 9/11 and 13/12 terrorist attack on Indian Parliament has been expressed in military terms than in diplomatic etiquette. Terrorist attacks on Indian targets, inclusive of the J&K Assembly, are the repercussions of US decimation of the fundamentalist regime in Afghanistan. Analysts in India have however seen these attacks as failures of the Indian coercive diplomacy vis-à-vis Pakistan.

There however appeared a parallel between the Indian strategic thinking vis-à-vis Pakistan and the evolution of the American security doctrine after 9/11. The US doctrinal approaches to security have changed from containment to integration based on the principle of universal values

cherished with liberal democracy. The new approach upholds unilateralism whenever US interests are not compatible with the interests of the others.

In the case of Pakistan, India is also drawing a parallel experience to that of American experience in Iraq. Indian policy of containment depends on deterrence, but the nuclear equalizer has compromised the credibility of Indian threat. Since diplomatic engagements are absent, war has become only a rational option for India. But for India, unlike the US, its unilateralism will directly confront the American global interests besides the entrenching US interests in Pakistan and the surrounding region. And the dilemma with India is that it cannot afford to disturb the enhanced and strengthened US-India partnership.

One of the several indicators of the Bush administration's growing focus on India has been its censure on the panicky issue of nuclear non-proliferation. Following 9/11 the US swiftly waved the sanctions against India and Pakistan, imposed after their nuclear tests in May 1998. However, by becoming the frontline state for the US against terrorism, Pakistan has indeed stolen the show out of the burgeoning Indo-US ties, making America a shield against the perceived Indian design on itself. The Indian External Affairs Minister publicly declared that "India has a much better case to go for pre-emptive action" against India. Nevertheless, the superior American military presence in Pakistan would make the Indian case against Pakistan more vulnerable even on military terms.

That the problem of terrorism in South Asia revolves around the absence of cooperation on the issue, mainly through SAARC, is obvious. India sees all of its neighbors somehow involved, if not indulgent, in tolerating terrorism directed against her. Also the sense of persecution of Muslims with the combine forces of Christianity and Hinduism makes the task of defusing tension more challenging.

The Maoists, Nepal and the World

In the post-9/11 period, there are indications that American posture towards the Maoist insurgency in Nepal is changing. Colin Powell recently said that the Maoist insurgency is really the kind of war that US is fighting against throughout the world. The British government and the European Union have favored a negotiated settlement of the conflict. India has not only declared the Maoists as

a terrorist group, but also promptly supplied equipment to the Nepal army and trained Royal Nepal army personnel in counter-terrorism. The international solidarity against terrorism has brought to Nepal the assurance that it mostly needed to deal with this issue. Perhaps this international solidarity against terrorism has also forced the Maoists to choose negotiation than continuing violence.

India has taken serious note of increasing American meddling in the Nepali domestic politics that has traditionally remained uncontested diplomatic turf for itself. Perceptions of downgrading of Indian security sensitivities by American intrusion have added to the complexities in the regional situation, as India is pivotal to the strategic stability in South Asia. A dissatisfied and disillusioned India can be more dangerous to the regional stability.

Economic sanctions have always been a major instrument for India to use against Nepal. But the most formidable problem for Nepal is the Maoist challenge, which she would like to overcome with foreign diplomatic and military assistance. Perhaps because of this reason, Nepal has become the only country in South Asia that has officially endorsed the American actions in Iraq.

A Perspective from Bangladesh by Abdur Rob Khan

Many issues have been raised in wider contexts on the broader topic of the impact of the Iraq war on South Asia. Here I have depended mainly on print media, mostly Bangladesh newspapers, to provide a flavor of the ongoing debate and perceptions.

Coalition objectives: There are a number of theories regarding the objectives of the war. The first one is oil theory. Although some argue that certainly oil alone could not have pushed America for such a risky venture, there are others who argue that economic motivations, including control over oil resources are certainly a major objective. The second theory is civilizational war against Islam. The third theory has it that this could be Israel's war against the Arabs fought by a small segment of the American power blocs. Prof. Rehman Sobhan calls it a collateral agenda, which extends beyond Iraq.

Certainly the objectives are not liberation of Iraq for the Iraqis, not introducing democracy there, and not

KODIKARA AWARDEES 2003

Kodikara Awards Research Grants for South Asian Strategic Studies for 2003 sponsored by RCSS have been awarded to five outstanding young South Asians. This is the 7th in the series of research grants being made under this scheme since 1996.

The selected fellows for the Award are:

Mr Arjun Bahadur Ayadi

Assistant Lecturer
Political Science
Birendranagar Multiple Campus
Surkhet, Nepal.
(*Maoists Insurgency and Problem of Governance in Nepal: A Study of Surkhet District*)

Dr Anindita Dasgupta

Lecturer
Dept of History,
Gauhati University, Assam, India.
(*The Maoist "People's War" in Nepal: Theoretical Considerations*)

Ms Pema Desel

Assistant Researcher
The Centre for Butan Studies, Thimpu, Bhutan.
(*Globalisation and Its Impact on Bhutan and Small South Asian Nations*)

Ms Amtul Hasan

M Phil Student
Dept of International Relations, University of
Karachi
Pakistan.
(*Impact of Partition Refugees in Pakistan*)

Mr Shameem Reza

Lecturer
Dept of Mass Communication And Journalism
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
(*Peace Process and the News Media: the Case Study of Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh*)

The scholars are expected to produce research monographs on the selected themes and submit them to RCSS by April 15, 2004. The research papers if required will be reviewed by independent reviewer(s), after which it may be published under the RCSS policy studies series.

destruction of WMD in Iraq. I think oil, reshaping of politics in the Middle East, and through that emerging as the sole and unchallenged superpower have been US objectives.

Impact on South Asia: South Asia has three very populous countries, a sizeable workforce employed in the Middle East, and a very strong Muslim religious affinity among the constituent populations. However, on the issue of terrorism, there are divergences of views between India and Pakistan. India is likely to draw a parallelism of US position vis-à-vis terrorism. Indian Minister Sinha has been insisting that Pakistan was a fit case for pre-emptive strikes.

South Asian Concerns: Former Indian statesman I.K. Gujral has expressed the view that the Iraq syndrome has raised concerns regarding the vulnerability of smaller states to invasion by stronger ones—a sentiment echoed by Malaysia's Mahathir Mohammad.

Bangladesh Perspective: At a recent civil society discussion, attention was drawn on the marginalization of UN as a result of war on Iraq. The participants felt that Bangladesh, as a Muslim majority but poor country has a lot to worry about its security under the evolving system, or the lack of it. Another potential danger is the possibility of the rise of religious extremism as a backlash to the aggression in Iraq.

On the economic front, there is a potential risk to the country's garment and shrimp exports to US and the likely loss of remittances from employees working in the Middle East. It should be pointed out that the garment sends more than 40% of its products to USA, employs 1.8 million workers in the industry, and contributes to 76% of exports earnings.

Bangladesh has reason to be uncomfortable about the likely parallelism putting India in US position. Resurgence of 'might is right' in international relations will put smaller states like Bangladesh at the receiving end.

Mahbub Ul Haq Awards 2003

for Collaborative Research on Non-traditional Security Issues

Mahbub ul Haq Research Awards for Non Traditional Security Issues in South Asia sponsored by the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, have been awarded to 6 outstanding young South Asians for joint research. This is the 2nd in the series of research grants being made under this scheme since year 2000. The award is meant for collaborative research between two different South Asian nationals on non-traditional security issues that has relevance to contemporary South Asia.

RCSS wishes to thank and commend all applicants who enthusiastically applied for the award. The competition was intense and the selection process was challenging. We thank the international selection committee members for evaluating the applications. We also convey our hearty congratulations to the awardees.

The selected fellows for the Award are:

1. Dr S I Keethaponcalan

Senior Lecturer
Dept of Political Science and Public Policy
University of Colombo.
and

Dr A Subramanyam Raju

C/o Indo-American Centre for International Studies
OU Campus, Hyderabad-500007
Andhra Pradesh, India.

Research Topic: *India and Sri Lanka: Issues in Maritime Cooperation*

2. Ms Mallika Joseph

Research Officer and Web Master
Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS)
New Delhi, India.
and

Ms Salma M F Malik

Lecturer, Department of Defence & Strategic Studies
Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Research Topic: *Introducing the Small Arms Debate in the Security Discourse of South Asia*

3. Dr Suba Chandran

Research Officer and Web Master
Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS)
127, Vasant Enclave, New Delhi, India.
and

Mr Rizwan Zeb

Research Analyst
Institute of Regional Studies
Islamabad, Pakistan.

Research Topic: *Creating Ripe Conditions to Resolve Indo-Pak Conflicts*

The scholars are expected to produce research monographs on the selected themes and submit them to RCSS by March 1, 2004. If required, the research papers will be reviewed by independent reviewer(s), after which it may be published under the RCSS policy studies series.

Rush in your views to RCSS Web Discussion Forum

We invite you to join us in examining the dynamics of outstanding contemporary South Asian and regional issues time to time on our Web Discussion Forum on <<http://www.rcss.org>>. The ongoing topic of discussion is “**The Impact of Iraq War on South Asia**”. The Centre will appoint leading practitioners and national experts who will facilitate the forum by providing in-depth analysis and also respond to your views on the subject of discussion.

We welcome all of you to express your views and we also encourage you to take part in this lively web discussion that will work as an ideal forum for talent spotting of participants for our workshops lined up for the year ahead. So send in your views and be part of our network.

From the Bookshelf

Chowdhury R Abrar and Mahendra P Lama (eds.) *Displaced Within Homelands: The IDPs of Bangladesh and the Region* (Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, University of Dhaka, 2003)

The internally displaced are considered as the single largest ‘at-risk population’ in the world. Very often they suffer from hunger, disease and lack of shelter. Over the last few decades IDPs have become a major issue of international concern. Since they often impinge upon peace and security and much larger humanitarian issues, international community has shown both interest and concerns in situations of internal displacement. This volume consists of a number of articles that deal with various facets and dimension of internally displaced persons. The book is designed to introduce the reader with various dimensions of IDP problem in Bangladesh and in the region. It also aims at looking for a more competent management of the problems.

Toby Dodge and Steven Simon (eds.) *Iraq at the Cross Roads: State and Society in the Shadow of Regime Change* (Adelphi Paper 354, IISS Publication, Oxford University Press, New York, January 2003).

A US-led assault on Iraq will have unpredictable and possibly profound effects on Iraqi society. Moreover, those effects will vary with the objectives and strategy opted by the US and its allies as well as by the pace and scope of the collapse of Iraqi resistance. Further, the reach of Washington’s post-war objectives has not yet been settled. Given these multiple sources of uncertainty, understanding the relationship between Iraqi society and the Iraqi state after three decades of Ba’ath rule is all the more crucial to the success of post-war efforts to reconstruct the country and reconstitute its political system. These essays delineate the options now being debated in Washington and provide up-to-date assessments of how Iraqi state and society will respond to the impact of war and the removal of a deeply-rooted authoritarian regime.

Hans- Christian Hagman, *European Crisis Management and Defence: The Search for Capabilities*, (Adelphi Paper 353, IISS Publication, Oxford University Press, New York, 2002).

How much more security is being generated by the NATO/EU capability initiatives and what new formulas can produce greater output? Although the EU has become a net exporter of security and its members have a potentially wide security palette at their disposal, coordination and cooperation is at best embryonic, and often merely symbolic. This paper assess the substance of military and civilian capability initiatives by both NATO and the EU, the development of EU instruments and capabilities, the prospects for a strategic EU-US partnership and identifies the major challenges and opportunities in increasing European capabilities for conflict prevention and crisis management.

Charlotte Ku and Harold K Jacobson (eds.) *Democratic Accountability and the Use of Force in International Law*, (Cambridge University Press, UK, 2003)

The spread of democracy to a majority of the world’s states and the legitimization of the use of force by multilateral institutions such as NATO and the UN have been two key developments since World War II. In the last decade these developments have become intertwined, as multilateral forces moved from traditional peace keeping to peace enforcement among warring parties. This book explores the experience of nine countries (Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, Norway, Russia, UK and USA) in the deployment of armed forces under the UN and NATO, asking who has been and should be accountable to the citizens of states who are the objects of deployments, for the decisions made in such military actions. The authors conclude that national-level mechanisms have been most important in ensuring democratic accountability of national and international decision-makers.

Spoilers and Peace Processes: Conflict Settlement and Devious Objectives

A small brainstorming meeting organized by the UN University's research project on "*Spoilers and Peace Processes: Conflict Settlement and Devious Objectives*" was held on May 13, 2003 at the auditorium of RCSS. The day's events began with opening welcome address made by Professor Sridhar Khatri, Executive Director, RCSS, who presented a brief background of the arrangement for the UN University to organize and RCSS to host the meeting. Continuing, he said that the choice of Colombo as venue of the meeting was most fitting in view of the current peace initiative, and that the participants were free to exchange their views quite candidly on the phenomena of 'spoilers' in different conflict situations not only in Sri Lanka but all over the world.

Dr. Edward Newman, on behalf of the UN University's team, spoke next to describe the genesis of the project, and said that this planning meeting was organized as a part of a larger research project being developed by UNU under the direction of Dr. Oliver Richmond (St. Andrew's University) and himself. Developing a framework for analyzing the hidden hand of spoiling peace initiatives is very useful to understand the actions of various diverse groups who seek to hinder or undermine conflict settlement through a variety of means and for a variety of motives, explained Dr Newman. He concluded his comments by saying that while a framework for analyzing 'spoilers' is being developed on a theoretical level, practical inputs from the Sri Lankan experience will greatly add value to the field of study.

This was followed by Dr. Richmond's able exposition of the principle propositions upon which

the project is based, the definition of spoilers, the context within which the 'spoilers' operate and what the project seeks to achieve. Citing examples from 'epicentres' of conflict, such as Bosnia, Cyprus and Northern Ireland, he gave a vivid description of the manner in which devious designs by various interest groups impacted on the course of the peace process in these countries. He held out the fervent hope that insights learned from unraveling 'spoiler' dynamics, methods and approaches could be very useful in creating a better atmosphere in which peace initiatives could sustain and thrive.

From the Sri Lankan side, Jayadeva Uyangoda opened the discussion with some interesting comments on the ongoing paradigm shift in peace making in the country, followed by P.Saravanamuttu's comments on the impact of local political bickering on the peace process as a whole. Jehan Perera, Kethesh Loganathan and Tyrol Ferdinandes, —well-known leaders of the local civil society front—added their observations, based on their wide range of experience accrued from NGO participatory activities. Right through the discussion, John Gunaratne, a member of the government Peace Secretariat, spoke at length on a number of practical aspects of the ongoing peace negotiations, while (Rtd) Major-General Upali Karunaratne made some useful interventions to dispel, what he termed, 'the popular misconception' that the security forces have a vested interest in perpetuating the armed conflict. Finally, R.A. Ariyaratne thanked all the participants on behalf of the RCSS for joining the discussion at short notice and helping expand the existing knowledge on the subject with their rich repertoire of practical experience.

Views expressed in materials published in *rcss newsletter* are of contributors, and not necessarily of the RCSS.

The *rcss newsletter* is published quarterly. For copies, comments, contributions and further information please write to:

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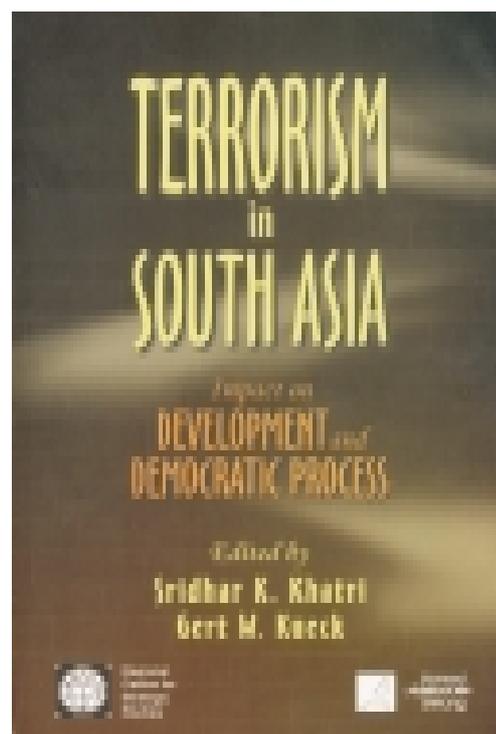
Latest from RCSS

Terrorism in South Asia: Impact on Development and Democratic Process

Sridhar K Khatri and Gert W Kueck eds., (Shipra Publications, Delhi, India., 2003)

Following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. on 11 September, 2001, South Asia emerged as the epicentre of the war against terrorism, with the involvement of the American and coalition forces against Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. The development brought into focus not only the spectre posed by the threat of global terrorism, but also the dangers which terrorism poses within and among the countries of the region.

In South Asia, there is a consensus that terrorism has a negative impact on economic development, but the assessment differs significantly depending on the experience of individual countries. There is, therefore, a need to develop a common methodology to calculate the costs of conflicts which should be able to demonstrate, among other things, that conflicts are responsible for the economic ills of countries. Such an exercise would be incomplete without a better understanding of the economy of terrorism, including the sources and methods of its financing and its economic networking. Similarly, there is also a consensus in the region that terrorism undermines and weakens the democratic structure of countries, but it is not yet fully clear how that is done. Most papers in the present volume have attempted to address both the causes and consequences of terrorism, and strongly underscore the need for case-by-case study of individual terrorist groups to see how they have impacted on the state structure.



CONTENTS

1. Introduction, *Sridhar K Khatri*

Part I: Economic and Political Costs of Terrorism:

A Global Perspective

2. Global Terrorism: Trends and Response, *Georg Witschel*
3. Costs of Terrorism and Deadly Conflict: Who Should Care, and Why Should They Care?, *John M Richardson Jr*
4. Discussant: *Amena Mohsin*
5. Discussant: *Afiir Karim*

Part II: Economic Cost of Terrorism in South Asia:

National Perspectives

6. Economic Cost of Terrorism in South Asia: The Case of Bangladesh, *A. K M. Atiqur Rahman*
7. The Maoist Movement in Nepal: The Economic Implications, *Mahendra P. Lama*
8. Economic Costs of Civil Unrest in South Asia: Nepal's Experience, *Suman K Sharma*
9. Terrorism, Development and Democracy: The Case of Pakistan, *Akmal Hussain*
10. Managing the Sri Lankan Economy at a Time of Terrorism and War, *Saman Kelegama*

Part III: Impact of Terrorism on Democratic Development in South Asia: National Perspectives

11. Impact of Terrorism on Development and the Democratic Process: Bangladesh's Perspective, *Matiur Rahman*
12. The Effects of Terrorism on Indian Democracy, *Kanti Bajpai*
13. Perspectives on Terrorism: Democratic and International Developments, *I P. Khosla*
14. The Spectre of Terror and its Impact on the Democratic Process in Nepal, *Lok Raj Baral*

15. Impact of Terrorism on Democratic Development in South Asia: Pakistan's Perspective, *Ijaz Hussain*

16. Reflections on the Secessionist Insurrection in Sri Lanka: Consequences for Sri Lanka, and Lessons for the International Community, *Jagath P. Senaratne*

17. Discussant: *Ayesha Siddiqi-Agha*

18. Discussant: *Dhruba Kumar*

Part IV: Political and Economic Consequences of Terrorism in Sri Lanka and the Road to Peace

19. The Peace Process in Sri Lanka: How Difficult, How Different?, *P. Saravanamuttu*

Part V: Political Consequences of Terrorism on Interstate Relations

20. Terrorism and Interstate Relations in South Asia, *S. D. Muni*
21. Political Consequences of Terrorism on Interstate Relations, *Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema*

22. Contemporary Terrorism and the State, Non-State, and the Interstate: Newer Drinks, Newer Bottles, *Imtiaz Ahmed*

23. Discussant: *M. Shafiullah*

Part VI: Combating Terrorism through Cooperation

24. Developing a Cooperative Framework for Dealing with Terrorism, *Kumar Rupesinghe*

25. Combating Terrorism: Devising Cooperative Countermeasures, *P. R. Chari*

26. Security Organization for South Asia (SOSA): Mechanism for Conflict Resolution in South Asia, *Niaz A. Naik*

27. Discussant: *MoonisAhmar*

Part VII: Conclusions

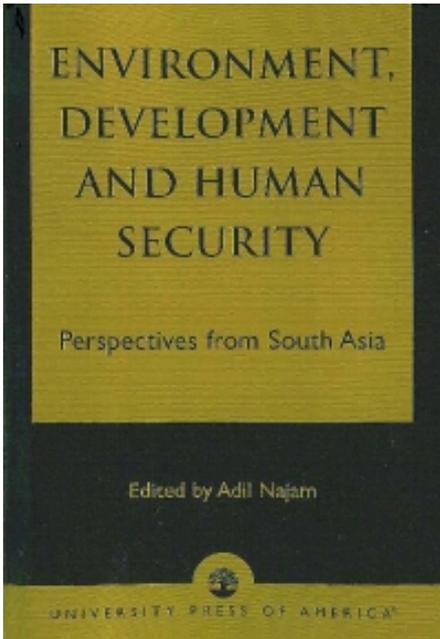
28. Work that Needs to be Done on Terrorism: Conclusions, *Muchkund Dubey*

Latest from RCSS

Environment, Development and Human Security:

Perspectives from South Asia

Adil Najam ed.(University Press of America May 2003).



The purpose of this collected volume of essays is to build on, and contribute to, the larger conceptual literature on environment and security. In particular, the book seeks to fill one of the glaring gaps within this stream of scholarship, which relates to a paucity of case studies for South Asia as a region and for its component territories. Written entirely by the leading scholars from South Asia, the book examines a region that is the setting for some of the most important environmental security challenges of our times.

The book is one of the outputs of RCSS's larger project on 'Non-Traditional Security Issues in South Asia.' Funded by the Ford Foundation, the project sought to advance the scholarly discussion on non-traditional security concerns in South Asia towards a decidedly policy-relevant focus, to build institutional capacity and expertise within the region, and to facilitate improved networking between individuals and institutions focusing on these issues.

Environment, Development and Human Security makes conscious attempt to neither seek, nor impose, a particular view of what is meant by the 'environment and security nexus'. Indeed, different authors have come up with very different (and sometimes opposing) viewpoints of what this term means. The book seeks to embrace and elicit this kind of diversity so that the issues may be covered from different conceptual directions. A diversity of viewpoints is, in fact, the most prominent feature of this volume. It represents not only the authors' different ideas on the subject, but also their varied interdisciplinary backgrounds.

The authors all hail from South Asia; they bring with them a richness and an authenticity of experience. The writing team for this volume included three authors each from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, and two each from Nepal and Sri Lanka. Importantly, the writing team included scholars with expertise in varied disciplines including political science, environmental engineering, resource economics, geography, wildlife ecology, system dynamics, hydrology, urban planning, and anthropology, to name a few. This disciplinary and experiential diversity has allowed us to view the environment and security problematique through multiple lenses, all from a shared South Asian perspective.

Contents:

1. *Introduction: Environment and Security in South Asia – Exploring the Links*
Adil Najam
- Country Studies:
 2. *Sustainable Development as a New Security Paradigm for India and South Asia*
Vandana Asthana and Ashok C Shukla
 3. *Environmental Security in Pakistan- Are there Grounds for Optimism?* **Shaheen Rafi Khan**
 4. *Environment and Security Perspectives from Bangladeshn,* **A. Atiq Rahman, Zahid H Chowdhury and Ahsan U Ahmed**
 5. *A Cultural Theory Perspective on Environment and Security in Nepal,*
Ajaya Dixit and Dipak Gyawali
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