

## **Regional Conflicts & Global Security Under Power Transition in South Asia**

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### **Abstract**

*The geo political significance and strategic location of south Asia which constantly links the interests of both global and regional powers, makes it one the most important region in the world. South Asia has great impact on the global politics as the key international players usually have pursued their strategic goals in this region. Although their role in south Asia carries significant ramifications as the region has witnessed an increasing rise in terrorism, an un ending apprehensions, proxy wars, lack of trust and cooperation among the neighbours. The world sees a major shift from Unipolarity towards Multipolarity due to the gradual transition in global power. The role of the United States of America as a global hegemon has constantly been challenged by the new rising powers such as China and Russia which has vividly changed the outlook of the power politics on the global level. China has got a major role in south Asia particularly with its mega projects under one road one belt which consists of multiple initiatives such as the CPEC with Pakistan which is more vital and game changer. The United States of America perceives the presence of china in south Asia as carking. Several regional conflicts particularly the ones present in south Asia could get even more severe and alarming in the near future. The current situation in south Asia essentially the prolonged chaos in Afghanistan and rampant transnational terrorism has distorted the regional political settings hence attracting global players to pursue their interests in the region. Pakistan and India the two important regional powers have been dragged into a competition of economic and military balancing. Both the states are struggling in arm race extending to modern tactical nukes and lethal war armaments. The region has been in a center of global concern as the persistent tensions between the two nuclear states and even a small standoff*

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*could lead to devastating situation and a possible nuclear war between them. This would eventually shatter the regional and global security.*

**Key words:** South Asia, Geo Political, United States of America, OBOR, CPEC,

## **Introduction**

South Asia has been the most important and strategic region in the world that can influence and shape global politics dramatically. Geographically, the region comprises of the states of like Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Sri-Lanka and other states. Apart from it, it has shared history and geography; there are countless conflicts and regional tensions among states in South Asia. Moreover, this region today is considered to be the least integrated region in the world due to endless conflicts among states. South Asia today faces various challenges such as changing security paradigms, human and food security, rise of non-state actors, ethnic and sectarian disputes and particularly the rise of horrid phenomena that is transnational terrorism as a result of 9/11 and presence of international actors in the region. (Muni S. K., 2013).

This region has also attracted global powers owing to its strategic importance and it has remained the major playground for the international actors and their rivalry have been played and managed here. The role of states like Pakistan, India and Afghanistan have always remained vital in the region and international powers such as USA, China and Russia have been engaged in the region for their vested interests, through building alliances in the region in order to gain utmost influence not only in South Asia, but in world also. Moreover, the geographical location of South Asia has been very important, which connects various areas like Central Asian Republics, Asia and Europe through its vast routes. (AMU, 2018).

Furthermore, South Asia is large region and consists mostly of developing states and within those states there are ample conflicts and issues such as issues of ethnicity, internal skirmishes, lack of education, instable economic condition, poverty, and insecurity are its examples. This region is known to be the fastest growing regions in the world also (Stratfor, 2014). Additionally, in this region Pakistan & India are the nuclear states which blossoms future threat of nuclear exchange. The tensions between the two states have brought ever-brewing race of acquiring dangerous weapons, which threatens the peace and security of the region. The ever present tensions between the two states constantly put the region in grave threat of

nuclear war. Both the states have been trying to ensure their dominance and hegemony over the region and gain military as well economic power through making alliances with international powers.

Despite having geographical contiguity, South Asia remains one of the major conflict-ridden regions in the world. Two of its major actors that is India and Pakistan have always been at daggers draw from the times of partition in 1947. The core issue of Jammu and Kashmir remains the major cause of conflict between India and Pakistan. Despite various bilateral treaties between Pakistan and India, the conflicts and tensions remain unresolved between the two states. Additionally, instability, political crisis and deteriorating law and order situation in Afghanistan continue to be the prime concerns for Global Powers. (Mukherjee, 2014).

With ever growing tensions between Pakistan and India over Kashmir issue; South Asia faces great threat of another war between the nuclear powers which could endanger safety and security of the region. Furthermore, the conflicts in South Asia poses severe economic and security threats to global powers specifically USA and China whose interests lie in the stability of the region. The ongoing war in Afghanistan and unresolved disputes between India and Pakistan creates serious and dangerous realities for the region. The lack of regional stability, cooperation and trust between / among neighboring states, especially between India and Pakistan breeds further tensions in the region. (Bajoria, 2009).

The situation is further complicated with rise of ISIS in the region. The situation in Afghanistan is major concerned for regional and global powers which at the end could disrupt regional peace and security. The rise of non-state actors in various states have challenged the peace and security of region. The lack of resolution to Afghan conflicts adds to complexities in South Asian region. (Wojcik, 2018).

In addition to this, the conflicts in the region could impact global security and peace. Major International actors such as United States of America, China and Russia have been involved in the region for their strategic interests and many conflicts in the region could be attributed to the role of global powers (Rajagopalan, 2017). The end of Cold War has even strengthened the US policy which is aimed to persist its influence over the region for its strategic goals. The strategic interest of USA is explicitly visible; its presence in Afghanistan and strong ties with India indicates that USA wants to maintain its dominance in South Asia for unforeseeable future (Dillon, 2015).

The involvement of Russia in the region seems more pragmatic as it's involved in Afghanistan to bring peace and stability through reconciliation. Russia is also been engaged in Afghanistan to fight ISIS and other groups (Kaura, 2018) . Besides their involvement in Afghanistan, Russia is also reaching out to Pakistan to resolve regional conflicts (Ramani, 2018). Furthermore, China's emergence as economic might in global scale and its specific interest in South Asia is seen by USA as threat to its strategic ambitions in South Asia. China's economic ambitions from its One Belt and One Road (OBOR) initiative and its partnership with Pakistan through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor with exception of India could help South Asian countries to achieve Economic Development while respecting sovereignty of states. On the other hand, United States of America has made strategic alliances with regional powers such as India by signing numerous deals that includes military aid which is considered by the neighboring states as threat to regional peace and security (Withnall, 2018).

### ***LITERATURE REVIEW***

S D Muni (Muni S. , 2013) in his article has stated that the phenomena of regional conflicts could spread through to other regions. The author has further pointed out that the region of South Asia has got great importance in conflict studies. The region has been conflict-ridden for decades and it has witnessed full interstate wars, and the two of South Asia's major powers are nuclear powers. The author further denotes that the some states in South Asia have the distinction of having major parts in the global terrorism and in South Asia most of the states are not free from insurgencies and separatist movements. The above paragraph highlights the importance of the South Asia and conflicts present within it, but it doesn't highlight the implications of regional conflicts on global peace and security.

Furthermore, the author of the paper classified the conflicts types in South Asia and highlighted various in the region which are imposed external and some are inflicted internally. The author has further quoted that the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan in December 1979 was a result of extra-regional powers intervention in South Asia, which also involved Pakistan in ensuing the conflict. The author has discussed causes of conflicts and he has highlighted how conflicts could impact global security.

Ejaz Ghani, Lakshmi Iyer (Ejaz Ghani, 2010) has branded South Asia as the second most violent place on earth after Middle East. They have further

mentioned that conflicts in Afghanistan & Pakistan have attracted global attraction. Other states in South Asia have also expired long running conflicts. The author has discussed numerous conflicts in the region of South Asia, but the implications of these conflicts on global security are not highlighted by the author hence, there is a gap in the study which the author has not discussed.

Padmalo Chan Dash (Dash P. C., 2014) in his research article has stated that the factors contributing to the conflicts / instability in the South Asia are many. The most persistent are the demographic and geographical factor (the geographical spread of the national groups in the region), the continuing historical trends (trend of the diminishing pattern of some ethno-national groups over their territory) and the continuing clatter between these two opposing factors and its outcome. The growth of conflicts in the region of South Asia can therefore, directly traced to the condition of the presence of multi-ethnic national states with concentrated ethno-national majorities or alternatively the presence of single ethnic group (in minority and scattered) in the different countries of south Asia . He has further mentioned that many conflicts in South Asia are result of extension in intra-state conflicts.

The author has further mentioned that most of the states in South Asia are effected by different types of internal conflicts such as trans-national terrorism, insurgency, ethnic conflicts, anarchy, and also internal civil unrest. The author narrates that the eternal conflicts between Pakistan and India remain the highlight of conflicts in South Asia. Additionally, the conflicts between the neighboring states and tensions caused because of natural resources etc. are major conflicts in the region.

The author has further stated that the conflict dynamics in the region now found to be growingly tending towards and gathering into the form of terrorism. In addition, multiplicity of terrorism has often been the principal destabilized factor in the goal of peace, stability and development in the region. In many cases, terrorism found to be the last instrument of success for the failed groups involved in such conflicts. In the politically diverse South Asia, many form of terrorism in the region do have a political aim and connotation". In the article the author has discussed that how conflicts in the region are evolved, but the impact of these conflicts on global peace and security are not discussed.

A Baj Pai (Bajpai, 2014) in his paper quoted South Asia as the most conflict prone region in the world. He has broadly addressed the role of global powers in South Asia for their stake arising out of strategic importance of South Asia. The leading external players in the region are USA, China and Russia. Additionally, he has stated that Afghanistan is considered as epicenter of global war on terrorism and both Pak-India have been seeing repercussions of terrorism, which would have serious implication of changing nature of conflicts in South Asia. The author points out that the nature and subtleties of the many conflicts in South Asia have major implications for the stability and peace of the region. However, the impacts of regional conflicts on global security are not discussed in the article hence, there is a gap.

The research paper published by International Institute for Sustainable Development (Khan, Faisal, Moeed, & Aska, 2007) has stated that the South Asia is a conflict prone region subject to continuous political tensions. Indian geographically large state in South Asia has developed conflicts with most of smaller states. Tensions in South Asia remains constant and never allowed atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation to prevail in the region. Two of the major powers of South Asia, India and Pakistan embody permanent instability in the region. Both the states have been continuously locked in everlasting conflicts since their independence. The author further discusses numerous conflicts in the region ranging from sectarian / ethnic conflicts, terrorism etc. but the impacts of such conflicts under global power transition are not discussed in the article.

Mohan Malik in his paper (Malik, 2011) has stated that pre-existing tensions between India and Pakistan conflicts in South Asia could lead to nuclear war between the two states if either side faces defeat. However, both India and Pakistan have maintained tighter controls over nuclear weapons. In short, Indian and Pakistani strategic policy makers see nuclear weapons as essential to maintaining state security and survival at large. The paper discusses that the conflicts between India and Pakistan could lead to nuclear warfare if the tensions are not resolved, however, impacts of such conflicts on global peace and security are not highlighted.

Evan Luard in his report (Luard, 2018) states that the "regional conflicts usually involve one or other of the superpowers, occasionally both, and appear a more likely cause of a direct confrontation between them, even if only with "conventional" arms, than the situation on the East-West frontier. These conflicts are main sources of tension in countries like

Afghanistan, Cambodia and other places . The author highlights the nature of conflicts but does not discuss its implications of such conflicts on global peace and security.

The paper published in United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research Geneva, Switzerland (Shiva , Haris , S.I. , & Padmaja ) discusses various aspects of regional conflicts in South Asia. The regional security in South Asia is mainly focused on inter-state rivalry between India and Pakistan. In the paper it is stated that with the introduction of nuclear weapons between the bilateral relations of India and Pakistan had garnered that international powers to maintain their key eye on the region. The situation in the region could very well turn into something detrimental, which could affect global peace and security. However, there is acute gap in the research paper as it does not cover the impacts of regional conflicts on global peace and security.

The above-mentioned literatures highlight various conflicts / tension existing within South Asia. Most importantly, it is explicitly visible that these papers / articles focus on causes of conflicts through various perspectives. From the above literature, it can be derived that these papers / articles deliberate upon skirmishes but not its outcome on global security; hence, there is a gap in these studies which this research would try to cover somehow. This research would strive to pinpoint that a regional conflict particularly in South Asia can evolve beyond regional boundaries and become a global conflict and ultimately threatening global peace and security.

### ***THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK***

Realism has been dominant theory in International Relations. This school of thought has been developed throughout history by renowned scholars such as Thucydides (founder of the school), Sun Tzu, Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, EH Carr, and Hans J. Morgenthau. The principal line of thinking of the realist school is in terms of powers and its exercise by states. The basic assumptions of realism are 1) the international system is anarchic. 2) Sovereign states are the principal actors in the international system. 3) States are rational unitary actors each acting under the consideration of its own national interest. 4) National security and survival are the primary national interest of each state. 5) In pursuit of national security, states strive to increase national power. 6) National power and capabilities determine the relations among states. 7) National interest, defined in terms of national power, guides the actions

of the states in international relations (Ghosh, 2015). In addition to this, Realism is an approach to the study of international politics that explains and interprets world politics in terms of power .

Realism is associated with thinkers from the times of Kautilya, Machiavelli and Hobbes through 20th-century scholars such as Hans Morgenthau and Kenneth Waltz. Realism has been the most dominant school of thought in post-Second World War international relations and continues to have relevance in contemporary world politics. The principal line of thinking of the realist school is in terms of power and its exercise by states. In other words, it is chiefly concerned with *realpolitik*. Realists maintain that the principal actors in the international arena are states, each acting in its rational self-interest within an environment of international anarchy. In the ongoing struggle for power in world politics, through the pursuit of national interest, policymakers use rational tools, including diplomacy, economic power and ultimately military force to attain the goals of foreign policy .

Realists insist that we should look at world politics as it really is and not as one imagines or wants it to be. Realists maintain that the principal actors in the international arena are states, each acting in its rational self-interest within an environment of international anarchy. No overarching or sovereign authority exists to control the actions of states or relations among or between them. In the ongoing struggle for power in world politics, through the pursuit of national interest, policymakers use various tools, including diplomacy, economic power and ultimately military force to attain the goals of foreign policy .

A country's relative level of power, including economic and military power, determines its relations with other states. International organizations maybe functional and useful for world cooperation in specific sectorial areas but can change neither the essence of state behavior nor the inner dynamics of global power politics, and are, therefore, destined to remain at the periphery of international relations. Realists primarily emphasize on power, national interest, security and the centrality of the nation state. They believe in the constancy of human nature, which can be both good and evil. In the quest for security, nations try to build up resources. Realists do not believe that the imposition of normative values or a pattern of standard behavior upon states is feasible or realistically sustainable .



## **Discussion**

The global power transition would likely to ignite a race for regional supremacy between states like Pakistan and India and largely China and USA would continue strive for their vested interests and augment their influence in the region by strengthening their ties with their allies. Recent developments and involvement of global powers like USA, China and Russia in South Asia prove that this region would not be without its implications of global power transition. The region has gained attraction globally due to unbridled terrorism and regional insecurity that can lead to full-scale wars in South Asia.

China being the primary global power whose active engagement in South Asia and its vision for becoming economic power in the world will have implications for the region. Specifically, China's economic development in region has brought other global powers in the region which means that this region would become a playground for global powers and their direct and indirect influence in the region for seeking out benefits and working for their vested interests would affect preexisting conflicts in the region would likely exacerbate security situation in South Asia.

The strategy of China in South Asia has been quite pragmatic. China has been using soft power to economically develop many states to achieve their support and expand its influence. The ultimate aim of China in the region is to expand its strategic space and contain India. Furthermore, China has been expanding its geo strategic space in the Indian Ocean to achieve broader goals not in the region of South Asia, but in the other regions as well.

At the time after the "Cold Ware", the USA implemented "The Pivot to Asia" strategy to counter terrorism in Afghanistan and most importantly contain its challengers both Russian and China in the region in the region. For the success of this policy, USA has sought help from India a regional power and adjusted its policies according to the various priorities given to South Asia. The ultimate goal of USA in the region is to ensure its influence in South Asian and Central Asia both having great natural reservoirs after "Middle East". The policy of USA in Asia includes minimizing the strategic place of Russia and demoralizes the alliance between China-Russia-India in the "Shanghai Cooperation organization (SCO)".

Apart from that USA has also been actively engaged with India bilaterally and multilaterally in order to implement Pivot to Asia and take advantage of India's hegemonic status in the region by benefiting from "India's Look East Policy" to preserve the autonomy in navigation and free

commerce in the East Asia and increasing its indispensable place in the “Far East and Southeast Asia” to achieve economic and political goals.

Russia has been immensely prioritizing South Asia and focuses on main sectors that are “augmenting its bilateral relations with India and Pakistan, rebuilding and restructuring Afghanistan and curtailing aftermaths of “War on Terror” in Afghanistan and Pakistan . Russia has also been involved in accumulating forces, building a security belt in Central Asia to counter terrorism and secure its strategic interest.

Furthermore, Russia shares numerous characterizes and benefits with India in shape of good bilateral relationship with India. They share common goal of multipolar world order and they have been involved to counter separatism, terrorism and radicalization. Apart from this India is potential market for Russia’s defense market.

Moreover, Russia considers Afghanistan as highly strategic land, which attracts great attention, not only for regional powers, but also for global powers. Despite various sanctions placed by its Westerns Allies, US, Russia continue to help Afghanistan and provide military and logistic support to Afghanistan. It is in the interest of Russia to maintain cordial relationship with Afghanistan to augment relations with other Muslim States.

For India, it has maintained the “status of major power” in the region and who is pursuing its aim to become center power in the world. India has been following its policy to counter Pakistan and contain the presence of China. India has been carrying out restructuring and rebuilding in Afghanistan and it has been granting ample economic support to the country. More importantly, India attributes inordinate strategy in adjusting its policies in order to compete with other regional powers. India has promoted strategic partnership with USA so that India can take great advantage from US market / capital and to achieve modern science and technology and gain access to the huge supply of nuclear fuels. The Indian partnership with USA is broadly in perspective to contain Pakistan and to minimize the China’s role in the region. India greatly perceives threat from rivals in the region and its policy has been devised accordingly.

On the other hand, India also perceives China as competitor and cooperates on various occasions that promote trade and economic relations between the two neighboring states. Furthermore, India has even greatly augmented its ties with Russia in numerous fields, most importantly in the field of science and technology energy generation and security / defense. (Wiki, 2018).

Briefly, South Asia is one of the most important locations in the world. The strategies of major global powers (USA-China-Russia) greatly affect the geo-political scenarios in the region. All the regional as well as global powers have their interests tied to the region which imparts direct or indirect security situation in the region. The involvement of regional and global powers can greatly impact politics in South Asia, and it has already given birth to new alliance in the region that can shape the nature of conflicts in the South Asia. Particularly, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India are the main actors in the region, their policies for their strategic and vested interests can lead to unending struggle for regional supremacy.

Afghanistan, being conflict-ridden zone, has already brought regional and global powers at the doorstep of “South Asia”. The War on Terror in Afghanistan and its endless nature has threatened the security of the region and it has attracted China and Russia to seek interest in Afghanistan in order to counter USA. On the other hand, China has been the major power in the region who seeks economic goals through various major economic projects in Pakistan. India has also made deals with Afghanistan and Iran to increase its influences in the region and with ultimate goals to counter the threats posed by Pakistan and China.

The region of South Asia remains exposed to international and regional change in politics and global power transition. The dynamics of security situation and the nature of conflicts are intensely changing because of international power shift. The weak state nature almost in every state of “South Asia” has caused them to become reasonably susceptible to the evolving global security situation in the world. The lack of regional integrity and coordination and unending internal state, interstate and intrastate conflicts have made the situation more intricate and unruly. (Dash P. , 2014).

The most daunting and prevailing conflict in the region is terrorism which is affecting the entire region and it has the most perplexing to regional and global powers. The implications of terrorism are not limited to particular state or region it can penetrate through other regions if it's not bridled. Now that the region is most vital for the global powers and their hidden interest regular collide with each other makes the situation more complex. The imprecation of terrorism is the biggest reason behind destabilizing factor of South Asia. Terrorism in South Asia has many political aims and it has been changing since intervention and involvement of global powers in the region.

The nature of conflicts under global power transition particularly in South Asia in countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and India can evolve dramatically. With the engagements of international powers like US, China and Russia and their interests in the region has fueled the existing conflicts. The global powers have been playing their part in the region either through supporting the non-state actors or through launching their proxies in the region who work for their secret agendas.

The ongoing conflicts in the region and its unresolved nature and the role of global powers have even contributed to the security situation in the region. The eternal conflicts in South Asia particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan have changed under global power transitions, as newly risen global powers like China and Russia have tied their interest in the region. Furthermore, intra-state conflicts, internal states conflicts and nontraditional conflicts would evolve in numerous ways under global power transition.

The unresolved conflicts such as transnational terrorism, proxy war, the conflict between India and Pakistan and threat of nuclear exchange would likely see embellishment under global power transition. Many chronic conflicts in the region are now being utilized by the global powers in order to feed their ravenous interests in the region. The engagement of international powers in South Asia has brought their power struggle for global hegemony with many implications for the region.

The region has seen rise in internal state, intrastate conflicts, specifically Afghanistan has been greatly affected by the engagements of global powers. Many internal conflicts in Afghanistan have imparted due to external powers. The growth of conflicts in Afghanistan is a result of linked interests of regional and global powers. The country has been the playground for regional and international powers. It is believed the non-state actors in Afghanistan have been supported by global and regional powers in order to achieve their goals. The international powers utilize Afghan soil to oust their rivals in region and ensure their supremacy in the region.

Furthermore, the unswerving issues between India and Pakistan would also become more dangerous in recent times. The two nuclear states have been locked in eternal conflict. The nature of their conflicts under global power shift would see drastic change. The longtime ally of USA; Pakistan has now shifted its focus towards China and to some extent Russia. This shift in alliance has made altered the politics and interests in the region. The partnership of Pakistan

with China in recent time has been a matter of grave concern not only for India but for US as well. The serious involvement of China in South Asia has raised much trepidation. India on the other hand perceives China's engagement with Pakistan as a threat to its security as both China and Pakistan are considered enemy by India. This particularly situation in South Asia has evolved the nature of conflicts beyond regional boundaries to international issue.

The unnerving conflicts between India and Pakistan are the main reasons of instability in the region. With the active involvement of international actors, the issues between both the nuclear states have become more significant. The international community perceives the situation of unsettled disputes / conflicts between "India and Pakistan" as a grave threat to the peace and security of South Asia which would have global implications as well. The International actors also consider that if the issues are not timely resolved then it will impart devastating effects on global security. Furthermore, being the nuclear states both states have not been able to resort to dialogue and diplomatic coordination instead they are engaged proxy wars and lack of communication.

This situation has now evolved more vividly with interest of global powers. US, Russia and Israel have been actively providing military assistance to India and paving path for India to become regional hegemon. This is not acceptable for both Pakistan and China. Similarly, China has been prime supporter of Pakistan in recent times and helping Pakistan both economically and militarily. The Chinese role in Pakistan is viewed by India and its supports and threat to its interests. With the support of international powers, the conflicts between India and Pakistan have changed its dynamic and nature. The conflicts of both states are now becoming the conflict of international powers as well and it has developed more complex scenario.

Additionally, the conflicts in "South Asia" particularly the ongoing tensions between Pakistan-India and the ever present threat of nuclear warfare between them have attracted the attention of global powers. The interests of international powers in South Asia is more significant than ever, especially the engagements of China in South Asia and its partnership with Pakistan has imparted great concerns for other regional and international powers. The war of regional supremacy among international powers in South Asia has been altering geo-politics of region.

## **Conclusion**

There is no blinking the fact that nuclear war brings great catastrophe from loss of precious lives to environmental degradation / devastation and fallout of nuclear war lasts for centuries and renders the cities and town unlivable for many decades. If a single atomic bomb is used by either side it would bring enormous deaths and destructions which will dwarf any other conflict in the world. There is no shortage of conflicts and crises around the world demanding the attention of policymakers in around the world. Nevertheless, the risks of a nuclear war between world most hostile nuclear powers (India-Pakistan) require serious attention from global power as well as international organizations to evade any tensions that can bring both the states to a war.

As it is proven from the history that regional conflicts anywhere in the world remaining unresolved for too long would engulf the entire region in its fold. The resultant conflict leads to regional instability causing grave threat to global peace at large. As seen from the past, many regional conflicts have transformed into global conflict. Similarly, the Middle East crises has now become the regional conflict and is on way to encompass other regions creating major anomalies for global peace and security.

In context of regional conflicts, South Asia, particularly, the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and India-Pakistan chronic tensions have made this regional more volatile. The ongoing war in Afghanistan poses severe threat to the peace and security of the region. And with the involvement of the major regional and international actors in the country, the war launched by US and its allies seems endless and it has been alarming for the global peace and security. The situation in Afghanistan is especially in contemporary world has been quite hazardous and changing the regional scenario dramatically. The war in Afghanistan is startling for neighboring countries as well, especially Pakistan.

Additionally, the unsettled tensions between two of the major powers of South Asia, which are India and Pakistan is making the region unstable and insecure. The nuclear powers have been locked in conflict for since their inception. The conflict between the major powers of South Asia has been shifting the geo-politics dramatically. Each state has been making alliances with global powers in terms of signing military deals. Their military deals have been the prime cause of arms race between India and Pakistan. The arms race has led to developing of nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, in recent times, both the states have been in pursuit of acquiring tactical nukes making the region more instable and insecure. In the past both the states have fought

wars with conventional weapons but the scenario is changed with both sides having nuclear capability.

There are still unresolved disputes between Pakistan-India and both the states regularly remain in arms skirmishes on Line of Control. The major conflict is of course the eternal conflict of Kashmir which even exacerbates the situation in the region as both states are not willing to partake in pragmatic solution to the decades old conflict. The unsettled conflicts between the two nuclear powers will always put the peace and security of the region in great jeopardy. (Zachary, 2017).

Considering severity of the region and India-Pakistan disputes, the region is more dangerous than other conflict ridden regions of the world because of nuclear weapons. Any conflict between the two would likely trigger nuclear exchange between two which would not only be devastating for region but it will impart unseen implications global peace and security. In case the tensions / conflicts in South Asia are not resolved in the near future it will become more dangerous which would endanger global peace and security in many ways.

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