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Essay

Over-dependence on Nuclear Balance of Power is Misleading

Outlines:

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement:

Nuclearization was once the prime objective for creating deterrence and establishing balance of power. The shift in international system and shape of power from hard to soft has changed the dynamics of states' power. The old strategies are no more much effective for the shape of muscles have changed.

2. Nuclear balance of power is an outdated strategy

3. What does dependence on nuclear balance of power means

- Concept of Balance of Power
- Nuclear deterrence and security dilemma
- Different postures for the usage of nuclear weapons

d. The dilemma of security dilemma.

4. Over-dependence on nuclear balance of power

5. Nuclearization and the transition in international system

a. From Cold War to developments in Globalization and increasing role of international institutions

b. Soft power as the new tool of deterrence

c. Soft power as the guarantee of prosperity

6. Transition in the strategies of Rival states

a. "Weaken them internally and isolate them internationally"

b. Encouraging and supporting the separatist and antistate actors in rival states.

c. Terror financing

d. The strategies and policies of hybrid and fifth generation warfare.

7. It is now the question of minds rather than muscles.

8. Conclusion.

Essay

The most uncertain times in the history of the world were the four decades of second half of twentieth century. From 1950's till ~~1990~~ 1991 the two great powers the United States and U.S.S.R were engaged in cold war. The basic strategy for both the great powers was to maximize their nuclear power. Both equally maximized their power and kept doing until the end of one power. Some other states followed the same footprints like India. to have a balance of power with China and then Pakistan for it considered India as threat and had to maintain balance of power (BOP). After 1991, The disintegration of U.S.S.R, a changed happened in the course of international system. The new era of Globalization begin. Nuclearization which was once the prime objective for producing deterrence and creating balance of power, was no more the prime option. The shift in international system and shape of power from hard to soft had changed the dynamics of power. The old strategies were no more much effective, for the shape of muscles changed.

The advent of globalization resulted in the strength and ^{increased} role of many international organizations and institutions. Many new organizations were established in late 1990's and early 2000's. The international affairs started to be more regulated than ever. The role of financial institutions increased as some regions were developing rapidly. The role of these institutions in those regions further increased their relevance. For example The role of World Bank in the 1997 economic crisis of Southeast Asian countries. Looking at the pace of shift and the increase in technological development countries majorly preferred the infrastructural and industrial development rather than security maximization and nuclearization.

Nuclearization means to develop and increase the nuclear power so that the security threats be minimized. The devastating effects of nuclear weapons creates a deterrence and countries avoid confrontation. The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War Two resulted into total devastation of the cities, turning everything into ashes. Since then the nuclear weapons are considered as the ultimate weapons

for the protection of the state.

The adoption of nuclear weapons by any state results in the creation of fear in its rival state for its security. To counter that threat the other state also adopts the policy of maximization of power in order to have a balance of power so that the integrity, interests, and territory of the state be guarded. In 1980's when India announced its nuclear programme and performed nuclear tests later on, Pakistan too started its nuclear project to have an equal power to that of India.

The attainment of nuclear weapons on one hand guarantees the protection and safeguard but on other it creates issues of safety of millions. Barry Buzan, an acclaimed political scientist, considers the South Asian region as the starting point of next international war. As in the region two rival countries have nuclear weapons one among which considers China also an equal rival thus resulting in volatility of the region. So the weapons which were created for deterrence resulted in a scenario

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of security dilemma where all are safe yet none are safe. The usage of nuclear weapons to which extent is concerned, different countries have adopted different strategies for its use, called nuclear postures.

Among 193 countries of the world only eight have nuclear weapons. These are U.S., U.K., Russia, France, China, North Korea, India and Pakistan. Most of them differs in their nuclear postures. It can be divided into different categories. One those who have -the policy of "no first usage", second those who have the policy of "usage in any case of threat to sovereignty of state" and then those who have the policy to use it as a last option. North Korea for instance have the policy of the usage of nuclear weapons in any case of threat to their sovereignty.

Although the nuclear weapons on one side give security but on other it is very understood that if any country used nuclear weapon on its rival, in retaliation nuclear weapons will be used. Thus ~~the~~ the use of nuclear weapons in any case is like the

invitation for self-destruction. And that is the dilemma of security dilemma created by nuclear weapons which were developed for balance of power. So, The rational choice for any state is and has always remained to not use and to not be dependent on nuclear weapons.

The issues arises specifically in the case of those countries who ~~do~~ lack behind economically or otherwise in their capabilities but have nuclear weapons, like Pakistan and North Korea. The countries less developed and struggling in their internal issues are vulnerable. They are an easy target for any state or group or any non-state actor to create disturbance in the target state. In case of state to state confrontation on the threat to use of nuclear weapons is enough as if use even at one place, it will have global effect. So whenever any country which poseses nuclear weapons (nukes) show any intention of using them, the whole world community jumps in to avoid any incident. This threat of use of nukes is itself an effective strategy for it worked many times in case of India and Pakistan. Thus resulting in over relying

of this policy by ^{some} states.

Regardless of how much dependence some countries have shown ~~for the~~ ~~usage~~ ~~on~~ ~~of~~ nuclear weapons, it has now become a fact that it is not enough. The world has changed. It has transitioned from a closed book with less secrets to an open book with many secrets. The world has now become more open to all than it was ever. It is called a global village for a reason. Any place which have the capabilities to meet the needs of prosperity is considered the right place. The needs of prosperity are health, education, equal welfare, equal opportunities, good options for accommodation, ^{Peace}, etc. And such states are considered to be the model states. Although it is debated that the model states are those which are declared model by west and institutions protecting the interests of western states, it ~~was~~ is also evident that these states have best living conditions than many those who are not developed and lives are miserable where. Looking at this development the preferences of the states and international institutions has changed.

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After The cold war, when The transition in global arena took place, the policies of many countries took rapid shift. Such countries went towards economic development. With economic development of states the role of financial institutions and development in either existing or ~~new~~ of new institutions ~~was not the~~ had the same pace as does the overall development. For example the institution, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), it would be not imaginable to create any such institution before or during cold war, but it is now an effective institution with certain amount of power which is not hard but a soft power.

The concept of soft power was given or introduced by ~~an~~ a political scientist Joseph Nye, according to him the military power is no more an effective power, he called it hard power, as states now have influence and authority as per their economic strength. For instance China is now being considered as the rival and challenger of the hegemony of United States of America not because of its excessive hard power but because of its rise due to its economic power or soft power, which increased the

the influence and authority of China. Since the soft power is now the most effective power. It is now considered as the currency of the deterrence. For who controls the international transactions of trade and money has the control of and influence in world affairs.

The change which is witnessed by the world and overly experienced by all the members of international community has overall altered the policies and strategies of states. Those who used to deter other by showing them fists are now not doing the same with same strategy. It is still the carrots and sticks, but carrots only when there is mutual interest and sticks are only with those who have soft power. For example when Iran's ^{policies} were not aligned with the interests of many especially U.S. it was not bombarded with bombs but with sanctions economic in nature. Similarly in ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, Ukraine is helped and assisted by NATO and its allies but on other hand the dependency of world, specifically of Europe on Russia has resulted in alternatives which could not restrict Russia from its actions and did not

affected The Russia economically as it would be otherwise if Russia was not equipped with soft power. The reliance on Russia is in shape of its resources like oil, gas, and agricultural crops in which other European countries are not abundant. One such example of it is grain deal via black sea.

In such scenario the policies of the states changed. Like one such example is, "weaken them internally and isolate them internationally". The EU disinfo lab results is one such example of it. That how India tried to do propaganda against Pakistan while simultaneously supporting the insurgent movements and groups in Pakistan and creating such groups.

The encouraging and supporting the separatists and anti-state actors in other states while not actively taking any action against the rivals is one major example of it. The proxy wars are usually results of such policies. For instance the conflict in Syria. The parties of conflicts are two groups one in power and other a force against the one in power. Both parties are

assisted by two major powers, one by U.S. and other by Russia, in order to safeguard their interest in Middle East region.

Similarly, after the religious wave of terrorism after 2001, terror financing is another strategy to attack and challenge the rivals. This strategy is used most in developing countries by countries against each other. For years India and Pakistan are accusing each other for such activities. These actions change shape with time. Sometimes the countries do not go for such policies but instead adopt the policies of already existing crisis in their rival states. For example the recent visit of U.S. treasury secretary ~~to~~ Janet Yellen to China. She is accused of meeting and supporting the ~~separatist~~ anti-state feminist group in China in her July 2023rd trip.

The new type of warfare is called the Hybrid warfare or fifth generation warfare. In simple words this warfare means to not attack the country with weapons and physical warfare but to challenge the cultural,

religious, traditional, and incentives and sentiments of people. Such actions results in the identity crisis, ethnic conflicts, and issues which are majorly internal. In result it is the minds that are changed which overall paralyze the nation to not go for one specific and collective goal rather acting for one own-sole self-interests.

Overall it can be said that, "It is now the question of minds rather than muscles". How one can give its nation one goal, one purpose or many goal and many purposes ~~rather than~~ but all of them to be their collective purpose and collective nation. For once the minds are corrupted the whole nation is corrupted. And only those listens to their Leaders who have delivered and gave people ~~pro~~ something, brought them prosperity. Thus if a nation is weak, it will be attacked not with power but with hate and propaganda and if it is strong the nation will be secured. ~~The~~ The dependence on the nuclear weapons is just like a false relieve through drugs as it is now the question of minds rather than muscles.

In short, The world has progressed not to deceive itself with only having military power but also to be abundant in soft power. The measurement of power is not done in number of nuclear weapons one have as the use of it is not seen as rational in any case as the ultimate result of its use is not only the destruction of enemy but also self-destruction. One can be convinced with nuclear balance of power but the race is not regarding maximization of power in terms of military but instead in terms of how much one can sustain the internal and external pressures in case of any kind of crisis, either social, political, economical, health related or any. But the one which prevails is how much ~~one~~ a country can sustain and flourish economically. As the race is regarding modern technology in ~~any~~ order to gain international market monopoly and not be a most dangerous by having much power in terms of nukes.