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(POLITICAL SCIENCE)

Q. After World War II, nuclear race started in the world. How Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty (NPT) played a vital role towards non-proliferation and what more efforts are required to make South Asia a nuclear free zone. 45 min

Ans

1)

INTRODUCTION

"Personally, I am haunted by the feeling that by 1970s there would be ten nuclear powers instead of four.... I see this as the greatest possible danger."

(President Kennedy, USA)

In the lightening of above statement, it can be clearly seen that the nuclear arm race begun after World War II.

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As it was the greatest threat thus efforts were made to stop its proliferation. However, there are certain measures required to make South Asia a nuclear free region.

2)

An era of Nuclear BACKGROUND: Arm Race After World War II

The USA's president Roosevelt allowed to build nuclear weapons through Manhattan project. It deployed nuclear weapons on Japan during World War II. Thus other states especially Russia started developing nuclear weapons after World War II because of security dilemma, deterrence and balance of power. This led to nuclear arm race.

3) EFFORTS FOR NUCLEAR NON- PROLIFERATION

P. The USA's president Obama expressed in a speech that the USA is

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committed to seek peace and security of world without nuclear weapons. He stated several reasons which supported nuclear non-proliferation. These include, Nuclear weapons provide more insecurity than security, and there are possible misuse of these weapons.

4) ROLE OF NPT TOWARDS NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

4.1) NPT prevents spread of Nuclear Weapons;
NPT prohibits nations to acquire nuclear weapons. In this regard, Article I of NPT says that the Non-nuclear weapon states should not acquire nuclear weapons.

4.2) NPT promotes Nuclear disarmament
Article VI of the NPT states that the nuclear weapon states should abandon their nuclear arsenals. This also contributes in nuclear non-proliferation.

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4.3) NPT promotes the peaceful use of Nuclear energy; Furthermore, NPT encourages the peaceful use of nuclear energy such as for research, medical purposes and so on. Article V of NPT states that the benefits of peaceful use of nuclear technology should be provided to ^{non-}nuclear weapon states without any discrimination.

4.4) Challenges and Criticism on NPT;

NPT has faced several challenges to stop nuclear proliferation. Some of these are the withdrawal of North Korea, and Iran's nuclear programme. Besides, It has faced criticism as well.

Such as Pakistan has criticized NPT on the grounds that it prohibits non-nuclear weapon states to build nuclear weapons but does not play significant role to minimize the nuclear weapons of Nuclear weapon states

5)

MORE EFFORTS REQUIRED TO
MAKE SOUTH ASIA A NUCLEAR
FREE ZONE

5.1)

Addressing ongoing security challenges include cross border attacks and terrorism; It is deemed necessary to address security challenges to make South Asia a nuclear free zone. India and Pakistan, for example, have developed their nuclear programs due to security concerns. Thus, nuclear race can be reduced by ensuring security.

5.2)

Adopting Track I and Track II diplomacy
Adopting track I and track II diplomacy to build trust and reduce mistrust between the South Asian states is needed. As it is helpful to make South Asia a nuclear free region.

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5.3) By Economic integration; Economic integration and cooperation is required to make South Asia a nuclear free zone. Because if states are economically ~~indea~~ interdependent on one another, there are less chances of conflicts and tensions.

5.4) By developing bilateral and regional agreements for non-proliferation; Nuclear race in South Asia can be prevented by making bilateral and regional nuclear non-proliferation treaties. The similar step was taken by USA and Russia by developing SALT, strategic arms limitation talks.

5.5) Through public education and awareness; The South Asia can be made a nuclear free zone through educating public. If public knows the danger of nuclear weapons and importance of non-proliferation, it will mobilize the non-proliferation efforts.

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Prevents nuclear
disarmament

Prevents spread
of nuclear
weapons

Role of

NPT in

nuclear

non-proliferation.

↓
Ensures peaceful use of
nuclear energy

Ways to make South Asia

Nuclear free zone

→ Addressing security challenges.

Through economic integration

Through Track I and Track II

diplomacy

Developing bilateral and regional

nuclear non-proliferation treaties

→ Through public awareness.

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6)

CONCLUSION

To conclude, nuclear weapons, first developed by USA are the real dangers to human beings. After the world war II, many nations started building these weapons and started nuclear armed race. Since these several steps were taken bilaterally, regionally and internationally to stop nuclear proliferation. NPT is one of these efforts. Moreover, there are several ways to make a South Asia a nuclear free zone.
