

Dynamics of Pakistan's Nuclear Doctrine: Implications for Strategic Stability in South Asia

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Abstract

This article seeks to discuss Pakistan's nuclear doctrine and its significance for strategic stability in South Asia which is challenged by complex interactions between different players in political, military, and technological dynamics. In particular, India's easy access to technology and the challenges for Pakistan associated with fears of low-intensity conflicts due to Indian offensive strategies have resulted in dangerous instabilities. The Indian technological advancement has inevitably brought revolutionary changes in the strategic thought process thus continuously forcing Pakistan to modify or upgrade its nuclear doctrine. We argue that Pakistan's nuclear doctrine is ambiguous, and the changing contours of Pakistan's nuclear doctrine are within the framework of how technological advancement navigates strategic stability in the South Asian region.

Keywords

Doctrine, nuclear revolution, strategic stability, deterrence, nuclear weapon

Introduction

The security considerations of any state are directly linked with the actual or perceived threats in a given geopolitical setup for which a state has to pay a heavy price if it fails to ensure its defense against any aggression. The acquisition of nuclear weapons by any state can be influenced by its security considerations; prestige and influence at the international level; economic and technological advantages; or domestic political pressures and compulsions. All of these or any one of these factors may influence a state to opt for the acquisition of nuclear weapons. As far as Pakistan is concerned, the genesis of its nuclear weapon acquisition is based on its threat perception and the

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