

An Assessment of Nuclear and Missile Developments in South Asia

A. Baskaran

Middlesex University Business School, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BT.

Abstract

Since conducting nuclear tests in 1998, both India and Pakistan have decided to build a “minimum nuclear deterrence”, replacing the policy of “non-weaponized nuclear deterrence”, followed since 1970s. Both countries appear to have accelerated their nuclear and missile programmes, particularly since 2001, while the international attention has been focused elsewhere such as Afghanistan and Iraq. Free from intensive international scrutiny, India and Pakistan continued to develop, test and deploy different types of ballistic missiles. The nuclear and missile developments in South Asia are gaining greater momentum rather than slowing down and India and Pakistan are in danger of trapped into a costly strategic arms race. This paper discusses various nuclear and missile developments in India and Pakistan and their technological capabilities. It also analyses the likely medium and long-term nuclear and missile developments or trends in South Asia and the implications for regional and global security, particularly from the view of nuclear and missile non-proliferation.