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## Table of Contents

<b>PANEL I</b> .....	1
<b>NUCLEARISATION &amp; SECURITY DIMENSIONS</b> .....	1
Nuclear Energy for Developing Countries; A Comprehensive Study on South Asia.....	2
The Odds of Arms Race Between India and Pakistan.....	4
United States in Countering North Korean Nuclear Threats: Challenges in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century .....	8
India – Pakistan Conflict and Its Security Implications on South Asia.....	13
President Trump’s Approach Towards Iran’s; The Impact of USA Sanctions on Iran’s Foreign Relations .....	16
<b>PANEL II</b> .....	21
<b>BORDERS &amp; GEOPOLITICAL COMPULSIONS</b> .....	21
The Resurgence of Taliban in Afghanistan in 2021 And Its Impact on The Violation of Human Rights .....	22
Illegal Boat Migrations from Sri Lanka to Australia in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century; A Case Study on Negombo..	25
Indian Illegal Fishing Over Sri Lankan Seas; Consequences on the Indo-Sri Lankan Relations .....	31
Geopolitical Issues in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road and Their Effects on Sri Lanka .....	36
<b>PANEL III</b> .....	41
<b>GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS</b> .....	41
Renewable Energy Sources of Sri Lanka By 2030: UNDPs Challenges and Development Prospect....	42
Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1: Challenges Encountering During the Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka (2021-2022).....	48
SINO – Lanka Economic Relations; Examining the Impacts on Sri Lanka .....	53
The Implications of Ukraine Crisis on The Regional Economies: A Case Study on South Asia .....	58
Effect Of the Cross Line of Control Trade on Kashmir: A Case Study on Economic Security .....	65
<b>PANEL IV</b> .....	69
<b>STRATEGY &amp; POLICY PROSPECTIVE</b> .....	69
Critique On Contribution of UNSC On Global Security In 21 <sup>st</sup> Century .....	70
Soft Power Projection of the USA; A Case Study on American Film Industry From 2011-2021 .....	74
The Role of International Law in The Preservation of Human Rights Violations; Case Study of Sierra Leone ,1991-2021 .....	79
The Impact of Negative Media on The Proceedings of The United Nations; The Shift in Public Outlook and Its Consequences .....	86

## Table of Figures

FIGURE 1: ILLEGAL FISHING BY INDIAN TRAWLERS VIOLATING THE MARITIME BOUNDARY OF SRI LANKA ...	33
FIGURE 2: FISH CAUGHT THROUGH ILLEGAL FISHING NETS .....	33
FIGURE 3: 100% ELECTRICITY GENERATION THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2050 .....	42
FIGURE 4: - OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES, CHINA AND SRI LANKA HAVE GREATLY DEVELOPED AND DEEPENED THEIR ECONOMIC TIES, WITH CHINA OPERATING AS SRI LANKA'S LARGEST LENDER.....	48
FIGURE 5: CHART 2- ANNUAL INFLATION RATES OF SOUTH ASIA SOURCE: IMF WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK (WEO) APRIL 2022.....	60
FIGURE 6: CHART 1- ANNUAL REAL GDP GROWTH OF SOUTH ASIA SOURCE: IMF WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK (WEO) APRIL 2022.....	60
FIGURE 7: SIERRA LEONE MAP.....	79
FIGURE 8: AN INFOGRAPHIC ON CONFLICT DIAMONDS SHOWING A TIMELINE ALONG WITH GENERAL STATISTICS .....	80
FIGURE 9: SIERRA LEONE CONFLICT.....	80
FIGURE 10: CHILDREN OF SIERRA LEONE - HUMANIUM .....	81
FIGURE 11: FGM IN SIERRA LEONE .....	82
FIGURE 12: SIERRA LEONEAN WOMEN .....	82
FIGURE 13: VOA INTERVIEW: FIRST LADY OF SIERRA LEONE TALKS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.....	84
FIGURE 14: THE INFLUENCE OF NEGATIVE MEDIA.....	87



# **PANEL I**

## **NUCLEARISATION & SECURITY DIMENSIONS**

# Nuclear Energy for Developing Countries; A Comprehensive Study on South Asia

KGMS Kularathna

**Abstract** — *In South Asia, several developing countries like India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Maldives are looking into inexhaustible and repeatable alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro and biomass. Geographically, South Asian countries are in a region of different climatic conditions such as tropical, humid etc. which provides easy access to a variety of renewable energy sources. The governments of South Asian countries have initiated renewable energy policies to encourage industries and individuals to employ renewable energy powered systems in power applications. Nuclear power has become a vastly used and discussed concept in the twenty first century with many states adapting nuclear technology as an effective means of generating electricity and heat. South Asia is among the regions which are expecting to achieve the status of a nuclear country. Especially the countries like India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. This research paper will provide a comparative study of how this region has contributed to the nuclear projects*

**Keywords** – *Nuclear energy, Developing countries, comprehensive study, South Asia*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Nuclear energy is used to generate over 11% of the world's electric power. According to the International Energy Agency aka IEA, the power generation cost by nuclear energy is 20 to 40% cheaper compared to wind and solar. At present, 31 countries operate 448 nuclear reactors to generate power over 391814 MW. It is the world's second highest clean power after hydropower which is a percentage of 16%. The uncertainty in international fossil fuel market limited indigenous energy resources and growing electric power demand for industrialization and economic development compels developing countries to seek nuclear energy to generate power as supplement to fossil fuel power generation. Currently, 54 countries which includes most developing nations are at different stages of acquiring nuclear technology. South Asia is home to well over one fifth of the world's population, making it the most densely populated geographical region in the world. Southern Asia comprises the countries of

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation aka SAARC is an economic cooperation organization in the region. Coupled with soaring prices for crude and the political uncertainties in many oil-producing countries, energy users, especially those in South Asia, face a difficult future in meeting their long-term energy needs. South Asia is a region of stark contrasts. It has a relatively small land mass and a high incidence of poverty. The per capita GNP ranges from over \$1800 in the Maldives to less than \$186 in Afghanistan. The purpose of this study is to identify the nuclear projects of the South Asian region and to analyze the significance and importance of a nuclear program to a developing country as a method of effective and efficient in terms of costs. The study expects to clear the loopholes of the literature by filling the research gap related to the subject area where it only contains a few relatable studies, especially a holistic exploration on the nuclear projects in the south Asian region.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. Implemented Strategies and Policies to Establish Nuclear Power Plants

All the countries in South Asian region are largely dependent on the non-renewable energy sources which inculcates a massive cost. This gigantic cost act as a constraint to the countries' development and restricts country to move forward from the status developing to developed. Not only the financial challenges but also the environmental challenges are rapidly rising due to the practice of non-renewable energy sources in the region. This has forced countries to focus and plan on their nuclear strategies to achieve long term benefits. In South Asia, India has an ambitious nuclear energy plan. From approximately 4800MW electrics currently, Department of Atomic Energy aka DAE has planned to add 30,000 MWe by 2020 and 60,000MW electrics by 2032. In 2001, Bangladesh adopted a National Nuclear Power Action Plan. At present, 2 units of 1000 MW each have been proposed in Ruppur in Pabna District around 50 km from Indian boarder.

It started construction of its first nuclear power reactor, Rooppur 1, in November 2017. The unit is scheduled to be commissioned in 2023.

Government of Sri Lanka has given its clearance to set up a nuclear power plant of 1000MW and has submitted a request to the International Atomic Energy Agency for a pre-feasibility study.

Nepal does not have any short-term nuclear energy plans. However, the National Nuclear Policy adopted in 2008, recognizes the great importance of application of nuclear energy and technology in the development process of Nepal.

Pakistan has announced that its nuclear energy target is to achieve an installed capacity of 8800 MW by 2030 from 462 MW as of today. Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission aka PAEC is responsible for planning, construction, and operation of nuclear power plants in the country. PAEC is currently operating three nuclear power plants id est Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP) and Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-1 and 2 (C-1 and C-2). The construction of two more units C-3 and C-4 of being 340 MW each is in progress.

Afghanistan, Bhutan, and Maldives currently do not have any plans to develop nuclear energy programs.

### *B. Difficulties Which Is Common for The Region*

Capital and Investment can be taken as a major issue. Nuclear energy has low power generation cost, but its initial cost is high. Power Plants require sophisticated infrastructure. Investments on South Asian Nuclear Projects therefore seem less due to their economical instabilities. The rapid growth of nuclear reactors in developing countries has created severe dearth of competent nuclear engineers, graduates, technicians, nuclear aware human resources. Generally, around 600–800 strong highly skilled workforce is required for a typical 1000 MW nuclear power plant in a developed country and this number is at least four times more for a newly entrant developing country due to low workforce productivity and lack of nuclear knowledge, education and training infrastructure. The IEA defines energy security as the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price. Energy security has many aspects: long-term energy security mainly deals with timely investments to supply energy in line with economic developments and environmental needs. On the other hand, short-term energy security focuses on the ability of the energy system to react promptly to sudden changes in the supply-demand balance. Nuclear energy has

proven that it can be used for both long-term and short-term energy goals.

Nuclear is a zero-emission clean energy source. Nuclear power plants produce no greenhouse gas emissions during operation. According to the IEA, the use of nuclear power has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by more than 60 gigatons over the past 50 years, which is almost two years' worth of global energy-related emissions. The main objective of nuclear safety is the achievement of proper operating conditions and the prevention or mitigation of accident consequences, resulting in protection of workers, the public and the environment from undue radiation hazards. Therefore, continuous monitoring and sense of responsibility are vital as a region and nation states. Otherwise, this can be one of the most dangerous regional threats within seconds. A major environmental concern related to nuclear power is the creation of radioactive wastes such as uranium mill tailings, spent reactor fuel, and other radioactive wastes. These materials can remain radioactive and dangerous to human health for thousands of years. Improper management of nuclear waste, in a densely populated area like South Asia, will lead to dangerous consequences.

### III. RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The rapid growth of nuclear reactors in developing countries has created a severe dearth of competent nuclear engineers, graduates, technicians, and nuclear-aware human resources. Generally, around 600–800 strong highly skilled workforce is required for a typical 1000 MW nuclear power plant in a developed country, which is at least four times more for a newly entrant developing country. This can be a good opportunity for the country's workforce.

Nuclear is a zero-emission clean energy source. Nuclear power plants produce no greenhouse gas emissions during operation. thereby, this is an excellent point to promote nuclear power plants in developing countries.

Nuclear energy is arguably one of the best sources of electricity generation that can meet the future energy needs and requirements. Even so, advances and improvements must be made for nuclear energy to be competitive in the future. The nuclear energy industry, governments, and private operators must develop an approach for nuclear energy systems that minimize high-level waste inventories while at the same time maximizing nuclear utilization to provide a secure energy source. Apart from their national nuclear



policies, a regional nuclear policy pioneered by SAARC is also recommended.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The study aims to study the need of nuclear power for the developing countries of south Asia such as, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives. Nuclear power has become a vastly used and discussed concept in the twenty first century with many states adapting nuclear technology as an effective means of generating electricity and heat. South Asia is among the regions which are expecting to achieve the status of a nuclear country. Especially the countries like India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. This research paper will provide a comparative study of how this region has contributed to the nuclear projects.

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#### ABBREVIATIONS

MW	Megawatts
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
GNP	Gross National Production
DAE	Department of Atomic Energy
PAEC	Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission

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## The Odds of Arms Race Between India and Pakistan

Lehan Thenura Jayasooriya

**Abstract**— Nuclear weapons or Weapons of Mass Destruction was initially developed by United States of America and they dropped nuclear bombs in two cities of Japan Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the end of the Second World War which proved the destructive power of a nuclear weapon. During the Cold war period most of powerful countries achieved the nuclear power. As well as Asian countries like India and Pakistan also got the nuclear power during the Cold War period. India and Pakistan, all these nuclear powers, have a long and intertwined relationship. Following achieving independence from British Rule in 1947, the nations have engaged in a number of conflicts, many of which have been waged over the Kashmir territory, which is claimed by both nations. India became a nuclear power in 1974, and Pakistan became a nuclear power in 1998. Although neither nation has ever used nuclear weapons in battle, several analysts worry that the current situation may progress over the use of modern arms. At least four major weapon platforms are currently being developed by India to support the various its current nuclear-capable warplanes, land-based delivery mechanisms, and sea-based weapons. Some of the other systems are almost finished but will shortly being prepared for battle. India is thought to have generated between 140 and 210 nuclear weapons' worth of military plutonium, though most likely just 160. However, more plutonium would be needed to create the weapons for the missiles now under construction, and it has been stated that India is constructing multiple new facilities to generate plutonium. India's nuclear policy, that has historically targeted Pakistan. India is still updating its nuclear arsenal while operationalizing their developing chord. Including two airplanes, four ground ballistic missiles, as well as two sea-based ballistic missiles, analysts predict it India presently employs eight distinct nuclear-capable weapons. By least 3 - 4 other weapons seem to be in construction. As due to the border disputes between India and Pakistan in Kashmir region there are possibility for a nuclear attack. This article mainly concerns about the debts of arms race between India and Pakistan.

**Keywords**— nuclear weapons, nuclear warheads, national security, Arms race

### I. INTRODUCTION

This article examines the origins and evolution of nuclear programs in India and Pakistan, highlighting a degree of ambiguity in the politics and status of these programs in their early years, with both India and Pakistan claiming peaceful use but wary of the possibility of developing nuclear weapons in the future. The United States played a vital role in the early years by providing technical training and technology transfer to aspiring nuclear scientists and engineers. In the context of the Cold War rivalry with the Soviet Union, US assistance for both countries' nuclear programs was considered as crucial alliance building. This includes efforts by the US to enlist India as an ally to counteract the rise of Communist China, a dynamic that has revived recently as China has emerged as a potential peer competitor for the US.

With nuclear tests in 1974 and 1998, a stockpile of fissile material, and the development of nuclear weapons delivery systems, including short and long-range ballistic missiles, India has militarized its nuclear program (Hart, 1983). India appears to be following in the footsteps of the US, Russia, the UK, France, and China in their pursuit for a triad of delivery systems, including ballistic missile submarines and multiple warhead missiles. India is also looking for missile defence and anti-satellite weapons. is pursuing strategic capabilities that would place it on level with China, if not ahead of it, and more broadly establish it as a great power. The United States has pledged to assisting India in becoming a long-term strategic partner. Pakistan has developed nuclear weapons to counter India's far greater conventional military, economic, and political might. Pakistan has relied on an illicit nuclear technology acquisition network and considerable direct support from China to reach strategic parity with India. It is now thought to have the world's fastest-growing nuclear arsenal. Pakistan is shifting its dependence on lighter and more compact plutonium-based weapons,

as well as from aircraft-delivered nuclear bombs to nuclear-armed missiles, as part of this endeavour. is pursuing strategic capabilities that would place it on level with China, if not ahead of it, and more broadly establish it as a great power (Abbas, 2018). The United States has pledged to assisting India in becoming a long-term strategic partner. Pakistan has developed nuclear weapons in order to counter India's far greater conventional military, economic, and political might. Pakistan has relied on an illicit nuclear technology acquisition network and considerable direct support from China to reach strategic parity with India. It is now thought to have the world's fastest-growing nuclear arsenal. Pakistan is shifting its dependence on lighter and more compact plutonium-based weapons, as well as from aircraft-delivered nuclear bombs to nuclear-armed missiles, as part of this endeavour.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. *Conflict Between Two States*

The terrorists launched an insurgency in Kashmir in the years that followed to seek a state that was independent of India, Pakistan, and even China, which continues to this day to complicate security in South Asia. Thus, the competition between India and Pakistan over nuclear technology raised concerns about the security and stability of South Asia, and a peaceful solution clearly depends on the determination of the international community to avert such a nuclear war before it is too late. Due to Pakistan's proximity to the Gulf and proximity to the Soviet Union, the US sought Pakistan as its strategic ally in South Asia after the establishment of the Baghdad Pact in 1959 along with Iran and Turkey. This was done so that the US could more easily implement its containment policy to secure South Asia.

Ultimately, on September 22, 1965, the UN Security Council adopted an unqualified The Nuclear Arms Race between India and Pakistan in the Post-Cold War Era: The South Asian region's complex security environment 170 Worldwide & Strategies The antagonism and military rivalry between India and Pakistan may be seen as an unending conflict that has already resulted in millions of deaths and been made worse by the lack of attention given to the situation by the international community (Schofield, 2010). 169 from January to June of 2018 Arfin Sudirman, a long-time leader of the Muslim League who is today recognized as one of Pakistan's founding fathers and its first governor-general, advocated the "Two-

Nations" idea based on religion, which ultimately led to the division of India and Pakistan.

### B. *INDIA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS*

India has about 150 nuclear warheads and the ability to deploy nuclear weapons from land, sea, and the air. The state has sworn never to use nuclear weapons first in a fight and has established a No First Use policy (Sharma, 2008 ). India, however, stated in August 2019 that they are re-evaluating this policy. The 3,000-pound bomb burst on May 18, 1974, with a force comparable to 8 kilotons of TNT. The 1974 test was colloquially called "Smiling Buddha" and is widely referred to as such, although being officially recognized as Pokhran I (Hart, 1983).

The Strategic Forces Command is in charge of and uses a variety of vehicles and launching silos to deliver the estimated 68 nuclear warheads (Hart, 1983) of India's land-based nuclear weapons. The Agni-I, the Agni-II, the Agni-III, the Agni-IV, the Agni-V, the Agni-P, and the Army's version of the Prithvi missile series, the Prithvi-I, make up the six distinct types of ballistic missiles that they presently possess. The Prithvi missiles' lower range and requirement to be stationed extremely near to the India-Pakistan border make them less effective for delivering nuclear bombs. The Agni-IV and Agni-V, the most modern varieties of the Agni missile family, as well as others have recently been introduced and are now in use. Additionally, being developed is Agni-VI (Perkovich). The very first is a submarine-launched system made up of a minimum of four Arihant class 6,000 ton (nuclear-powered) ballistic missile submarines. In August 2016, the INS Arihant, the first vessel, was put into service. She is the country of India's first nuclear-powered submarine. the latest, the Agni-IV and Agni-V, which are now in use, have both been admitted. Additionally, being developed is Agni-VI. The second is a ship-launched system cantered on the Dhanush ballistic missile, a short-range ship-launched missile. It has a 300 kilometre or so range (Hart, 1983). The missile was tested from INS Subhadra in the year 2000. The Dassault Mirage 2000s and SEPECAT Jaguars of the Indian Air Force are thought to be capable of performing a secondary nuclear-strike duty in addition to their ground-attack capability. The Indian Air Force have determined that the SEPECAT Jaguar is able to deliver Indian nuclear weapons since it was built to be capable of carrying and deploy nuclear bombs. The employment of unguided, free-falling bombs was the most likely deployment option.

### *C. PAKISTAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS*

In 1998, Pakistan conducted its first nuclear weapon test, making it the seventh nation in the world to do so formally. Although the precise yields of the country's arsenal are unknown, estimates range from 5 to 12 kilotons (kt) for the majority of weapons, with some longer-range ballistic missiles perhaps exceeding 40 kt (Abbas, 2018). Pakistan is thought to have the sixth-largest nuclear arsenal, with a stockpile of about 160 warheads. By 2025, Pakistan might have the fifth-largest nuclear arsenal with 220-250 warheads (Abbas, 2018), according to analysts, who note that the country is aggressively developing nuclear weapons. Pakistan started looking into plutonium manufacturing capabilities in the 1990s. The 40 MWt Khusab research reactor was constructed at Joharabad with Chinese aid, and Pakistan declared it operational in April 1998. According to estimates from the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC) and Carnegie, Pakistan has manufactured 30-55 nuclear bombs based on HEU and generated 585-800 kg of the radioactive material. The implosion design of Pakistan's nuclear bombs employs a solid core of highly enriched uranium and requires around 15-20 kg of material per warhead (Abbas, 2018). According to Carnegie, Pakistan has also generated a modest amount of weapons grade plutonium, enough for around 3-5 nuclear bombs, although the exact amount is unclear. According to Pakistani authorities, their nuclear weapons are not put together. They insist that the warheads are stored apart from the delivery systems and that the fissile cores are stored apart from the packages of non-nuclear explosives.

### *D. Major Debs of Arms Race Between India and Pakistan*

#### *1. What would happen in a nuclear war between India and Pakistan?*

If India and Pakistan were to each target urban centers in the opposing country with 250 100-kiloton nuclear weapons, which they are believed to possess, about 127 million people in South Asia would be killed by explosions, fires, and radiation.

Major terrorist groups that have been active in India include Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Hizbul Mujahideen, ISIS, al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent, and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen. Perhaps the least known of all the risks associated with nuclear

weapons is nuclear terrorism. Nuclear terrorism is a real threat that implemented with the arms race.

#### *2. What are the harmful effects of nuclear test?*

In terms of human health exposure, specialized studies have shown that thyroid cancer (generally, papillary thyroid cancer) is the most important consequence of nuclear tests, mainly due to radionuclide.

## IV. FINDINGS

Pakistan is attempting to maintain a balance between terror and India. Within South Asian arms race, it is not falling behind in terms of strategic equilibrium. Admittedly, it could manage to catch up to or keep up in the traditional weapons competition. Despite its population and economic limitations, Islamabad has been able to maintain an acceptable proper position of terror with Delhi by building up its nuclear and missile arsenal. Although, the strategic balance of terror keeps the rivals at peace, it is highly susceptible to nuclear catastrophe. Both India and Pakistan are forced to construct their strategy as the area lacks an arms control mechanism. One of the primary reasons for investing in or wasting both governments' vital resources in the deadly game of conventional, missile, and nuclear weapons armaments racing is the unpredictability of the adversary's response. This is due to the fact that both parties have been developing weaponry in part to uphold what they see as a positive armed balance with their rival. The cycle of action-reaction has played a significant role in keeping India and Pakistan in an arms race. Contrary to popular belief, an arms race has the ability to upset the balance of power and jeopardize the security of key rivals. Furthermore, realist theory proposed that a pre-emptive strike could tip the scales of power in one's favor. To prevent violence and maintain peace, a convention should be written and adopted that commits the parties to refraining from using force and mandating consultation between them in the case of a breach or threat of a breach of any bilateral weapons control accord or agreement. For a lasting and sustainable peace to exist between India and Pakistan, a bilateral weapons control regime is essential.

## V. CONCLUSION

To sum up, the Cold War-era animosity among India and Pakistan has really existed ever since end of British rule as well as the Indian partition in 1947. It is still there now. In order to annex the disputed area of Jammu and Kashmir, India and Pakistan broke up the conflict in the years that followed. The cold war context, in which Pakistan and India associated



themselves with the US and the Soviet Union, made the struggle more difficult. To be independent without Soviet assistance, India must review its security strategy in the wake of the demise of the Soviet Union. India thus realized that it is crucial to increase its military might in order to protect itself from foreign threats. Another significant shift took place when India opted to leave the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), followed by Pakistan and other nuclear-armed nations. The situation got worse in 1998 when Pakistan and India both successfully tested nuclear weapons, ushering in a new age unprecedented nuclear arms race. In the nuclear weapons race between India and Pakistan, the principles of the Balance of Power and Security Dilemma apply. As a result, both nations have steadily increased their military and nuclear capability to the point where it is now.

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# United States in Countering North Korean Nuclear Threats: Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

KK Wojithma

**Abstract** - Since 1980s when the United States became aware of North Korean nuclear capabilities the United States and the international community have tried to negotiate to bring denuclearization to North Korean nuclear and missile developments and its export of ballistic missile technology. The United States has focused on several policy practices in response to these proliferation challenges including military cooperation with the United States allies, sanctions, non-proliferation mechanisms such as export controls, and several deterrence measures. The decision of whether and how to engage with North Korea's regime to end Pyongyang's nuclear program and goals has been a challenge for U.S. Presidents for several decades. North Korea and the United States have held official conversations in several significant sets. However, all of these actions involve ineffective policy plans, crises, deadlock, and weak progress against North Korea's nuclear threats.

This research intends to identify how far the previous denuclearization policies adopted by the United States since the 2000s have been successful in countering North Korean nuclear threats while identifying the major challenges that the United States have to face when trying to interact with North Korea due to its hostile nature. Therefore, to address the main research problem, the research will study how powerful North Korea is in terms of its nuclear weapons, in what ways these threats will threaten the regional stability and national security of the United States, and in what ways the United States can respond towards these growing threats.

**Keywords** – Denuclearization, Proliferation, nuclear weapons

## I. INTRODUCTION

North Korea conducted multiple provocative ballistic missile tests that put the United States' security and its interests in the East Asia area at risk, and tensions between the two nations developed into aggressive military action. During this time, the United States kept enforcing a foreign policy focused on North Korea's disarmament. The ultimate goal of this strategy is denuclearization, which is attained by destroying completely and permanently North Korea's nuclear weapons program. To achieve denuclearization through discussions, the United States engaged in high-level diplomatic contacts with North Korea for several decades the nation has been discouraged from advancing its weapons program through a variety of negotiating techniques, including severe sanctions and energy aid, but every solution has been at best temporary. The greatest option to reduce or eliminate the threat of a nuclear North Korea in the view of the United States is through disarmament.

The following are some of the nuclear talks that the United States engaged with North Korea in trying to counter North Korean nuclear capabilities. These negotiations with North Korea show how far the United States was successful in trying to counter North Korea and some of the challenges that were involved.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. The Agreed Framework

In 1994, the US and North Korea agreed to the Agreed Framework on Nuclear Issues. The agreement lessened the original sense of panic around North Korea's nuclear program. Following the agreement's signing, working-level bilateral discussions between the U.S. and North Korea made some progress. However, the two's relationship remained extremely tight. In 2001, an internal Bush administration assessment of North Korea recommended a "bold approach" to handling North Korea. Discussions with North Korea were put on hold when the Bush administration took office. The new government provided conflicting signals about its readiness to deal with Pyongyang. The Bush administration sent a

mission to North Korea in October 2002, under the direction of Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly. Kelly's counterpart in North Korea allegedly said that his nation had a legal right to nuclear weapons. The United States announced a stop to all supplies of heavy fuel oil after North Korea had broken the terms of the agreed-upon framework.

#### *B. Six-Party Talks*

To internationalize the North Korean nuclear program problem and increase diplomatic pressure on Pyongyang, the Bush administration pushed for a multilateral structure. North and South Korean ties finally warmed up as a result of the Six-Party Talks, which also involved Japan, South Korea, and Russia. The "complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement" of North Korea's nuclear programs was the stated U.S. aim for these discussions. In 2005, a Joint Statement on denuclearization was released by the Six Parties. In return for food and energy aid from the other Six-Party participants, North Korea agreed to give up its nuclear projects and rejoin the NPT. Normalization with the United States, Japan, and South Korea will be among the requirements of any future discussions.

To address the immediate threat posed by North Korea's continued plutonium production, the Bush administration decided to increase its diplomatic ties. The United Nations Security Council adopted its first Chapter VII sanctions against North Korea in response to its nuclear test. Other Six-Party Talks participants would provide heavy fuel oil, North Korea would suspend operations at its Yongbyon nuclear site, and new working groups would be established to review the execution of the September 19 Joint Statement's different provisions. Additionally, the U.S. consented to help North Korea receive the blocked BDA money. In exchange for the United States withdrawing North Korea's status as a state sponsor of terrorism and lifting the restrictions placed under the Trading with the Enemy Act, North Korea has committed to halt all nuclear activity and provide a statement of "all its nuclear programs."

North Korea threatened to end the nuclear negotiations with the United States in October 2008, but the two sides verbally agreed instead. To keep the discussions going forwards, Washington decided to strike North Korea from its list of state sponsors of terrorism. The Six-Party Talks have come to an end as a result of a second nuclear test by North Korea. It also announced it would no longer abide by prior agreements on nuclear disarmament and cooperation with the U.N. Security Council and withdrew foreign observers from its Yongbyon nuclear facility.

#### *C. Strategic Patience*

Barack Obama has publicly and privately stated a desire to communicate with Pyongyang before taking office. Due to the collapse of the Six-Party Talks at the beginning of its term and the ensuing crises surrounding North Korea, the Obama administration only frequently engaged in discussions with Pyongyang. This strategy is based on a declared opposition to "rewarding bad behavior" on the side of North Korea and a conditional readiness to resume high-level negotiations if the country made a sincere effort to negotiate an end to its nuclear program. Additionally, it involved gradually increasing diplomatic and economic pressure on Pyongyang in response to provocations. Pyongyang sent conflicting signals about its willingness to resume talks in the months following its second nuclear test, expressing a declared desire to strengthen ties with the United States but not necessarily giving up its nuclear weapons.

Three rounds of informal bilateral negotiations between the Obama administration and North Korea were held. The death of Kim Jong Il momentarily interrupted negotiations; but, in February 2012, they started up again. The United States would give North Korea 240,000 metric tons of food aid under the so-called "Leap Day" agreement. In June 2013, North Korea declared its commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and requested high-level discussions with the United States without any restrictions. The Obama administration rejected this offer because it was deceptive. The Obama administration did not restart consistent communication with North Korea during its second term.

#### *D. Towards Maximum Pressure*

North Korea's overseas purchasing network for its nuclear and missile programs also developed into a more complex and effective system as its economic relations with China strengthened, opening the door for quick improvements in the nation's WMD capabilities. The fourth nuclear test was a turning moment and the beginning of a global campaign of increased vigilance on North Korea's nuclear program. Making prominent military displays on or near the Korean Peninsula and indicating that Washington was ready to use military force to stop North Korea from threatening the U.S. with nuclear-armed missiles were the last components in the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" strategy.

#### *E. Singapore Summit*

At the Trump-Kim summit, which was held in Singapore, the leaders of the U.S. and North Korea had

their first encounter. The United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) held a historic meeting in Pyongyang last week, with North Korea's Kim Jong-un pledging to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Follow-up negotiations between the United States and North Korea after their meeting in Singapore swiftly came to an end. Beyond the first actions agreed to in Singapore, no roadmap for disarmament was established. After the conference, North Korea did not seem to stop producing fissile material or ICBMs.

#### *F. Challengers to the United States*

Washington has followed the definition of final, fully verified denuclearization, also known as complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization, which calls for the controlled destruction of all nuclear weapons as well as their manufacturing and delivery systems. However, North Korea could not only subscribe to a more restricted definition of its nuclear disarmament but also consider the removal of American strategic assets in and around South Korea to be a necessary step towards the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Washington's demand that North Korea make significant disarmament promises before obtaining reciprocal advantages, such as the removal of sanctions, has made negotiations more challenging. North Korea's proposal at the Hanoi Summit was limited to the Yongbyon nuclear facilities. But even if it were to be dismantled, North Korea would still have a supply of nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles, and the ability to produce uranium for making weapons in other places. Therefore, confirming North Korea's desire for complete disarmament first is a crucial goal for the U.S. in the negotiating process.

According to North Korea, the disarmament process is not merely a unilateral commitment on its part, but is also dependent on parallel actions taken by the U.S. to end what it refers to as its political, military, and economic pressure as part of a "hostile policy". North Korea asserts that while it has already taken certain efforts towards disarmament, such as demolishing nuclear installations and putting a moratorium on nuclear and ICBM tests, the United States has not reciprocated in any way. In other words, both parties believe that the other must initiate conversations by displaying serious commitments to their basic objectives. As a result, the negotiating process has been hindered. Furthermore, there is a serious lack of confidence in both parties' motives, which makes the situation worse.

By conducting a succession of increasingly more powerful and advanced nuclear and missile tests in recent years, North Korea's nuclear capabilities have advanced rapidly. The international community may have miscalculated North Korea's intentions and goals concerning nuclear weapons. With each test, North Korea has slowly moved closer to establishing its nuclear status, making it tougher to pressure or persuade it to denuclearize. Pyongyang seems to feel that the only realistic course of action for its long-term plan to cope with the U.S. is a balance of power based on effective self-defense.

Because of this, the present condition is different from previous negotiation processes. Most crucially, Pyongyang likely believes that its increased nuclear capacity and its ability to launch an ICBM towards the U.S. mainland provide it enough deterrent to realign power on the Korean Peninsula. As a result, it appears to think that future bargaining demands should be based on its increased nuclear capabilities. Prior conversations centered on offering food and energy help in exchange for stopping activities at the Yongbyon nuclear reactor, but these alone are unlikely to be enough to convince Pyongyang to agree to disarmament efforts.

The lack of cooperation among the key participant states is another issue hindering disarmament discussions. Lack of agreement on a stance or the establishment of a global body to coordinate strategies diminishes the pressure on Pyongyang to denuclearize and obstructs the formulation of a possible roadmap. The rising geostrategic competition between the United States and China is another factor impeding the progress of the disarmament talks. Beijing and Moscow, which share a goal to see reduced U.S. military presence in Northeast Asia, are likely encouraging Kim's heightened focus on security guarantees.

### III. RESULTS

An alternative to using military force to end a conflict is to launch diplomatic measures. This is not to imply that other strategies, including political pressure and sanctions, don't have a place. In fact, the Trump administration attributes North Korea's return to the negotiating table in early 2018 to its strategy of "maximum pressure" through sanctions as well as political and military power. As a result, North Korea received a clear message that its nuclear and missile programs were unacceptable to the outside world, and pressure was applied to the regime by increasing the expense of maintaining those programs. It cannot be overstated how important the diplomatic initiative between the United States and North Korea in the early



months of 2018 was for opening a door to disarmament and new, peaceful bilateral ties. However, the "reconciliation" process was brief and came to a standstill. As a result of the lack of a precise agenda and a shared understanding of the primary issue, summit talks were eventually built on a weak basis.

Since the Singapore Summit, both parties have imposed a number of preconditions for the resumption of negotiations. These preconditions, however, have proven to be unacceptable to both parties. Looking ahead to the upcoming months, North Korean military provocations and potential U.S. and South Korean responses are likely as tensions and mistrust continue to outweigh political will for diplomatic dialogue. Furthermore, the chances for resolution have been adversely influenced by parties' lack of coordination and considerable power rivalry.

However, if diplomatic involvement is not added, pressure alone is rarely a good weapon for addressing deeply embedded conflict causes or effectively resolving complicated situations. In light of this, avoiding discussion with Pyongyang runs the risk of further isolating the regime, which would only serve to advance its nuclear aspirations and fuel a negative spiral of escalating military tensions in the area. Experience has taught us that long-term diplomatic engagement, with a commitment and a readiness to reach agreements with all sides, is necessary to create durable solutions.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

Initial diplomatic contact can be seen as potentially laying the way for a more favorable environment for resuming negotiations, given the current deadlock situation. First, both the United States and North Korea need to lessen their rigid and realist positions as well as their acute awareness of influence. Second, there is a need to concentrate on potentially simpler initiatives, the elements of which are already on the agenda, such as a ban on joint military exercises and missile tests. Third, a precise operational plan and scheduling of the necessary actions for disarmament and establishing a peace regime must be established. A key concern is that time may be running out to rebuild momentum for future discussions due to the diminishing window of opportunity.

#### V. CONCLUSION

Despite prior efforts, the North Korean nuclear problem has not been resolved in the six decades since the regime started building nuclear facilities at

Yongbyon with help from the Soviet Union. From Clinton to Trump, each administration has reached its own accord, either bilaterally or together with Pyongyang on a global basis, most notably through the Joint Statement from the 2005 Six Party Talks' brief "Leap Day Deal," made on September 19 and the most recent Singapore Joint Statement, which was released in June 2018. Despite these accomplishments being finally implemented, following protracted talks after every failed negotiation, Pyongyang pushed to further its nuclear program, most recently declaring in November 2017 that it had completed establishing the state's nuclear capabilities after an intercontinental ballistic missile test. This makes the prospects for future developments on the Korean Peninsula unsettling since there is a chance that a vicious cycle of hostilities may resume as the window of opportunity for dialogue is getting smaller. Therefore, a way out of the current stalemate marked by both sides' rigid negotiating positions must be discovered to begin nuclear talks between the crucial parties, mainly Washington and Pyongyang.

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# India – Pakistan Conflict and Its Security Implications on South Asia

T.M Samarathunga

*Abstract*— The India - Pakistan conflict is one of the most enduring rivalries in the world. Following the British withdrawal from India, Britain realized the vast cultural differences between the Muslims and the Hindus and established political boundaries based on those disparities. After the dissolution of the British Raj in 1947, India and Pakistan emerged as two new sovereign states. The bilateral relations between India and Pakistan have been complex and largely hostile due to a number of historical and political events. The partition of the British Indian Empire resulted in mass migration and loss of life. The political borders created by the British have resulted in several conflicts, which has hindered the regional consciousness and integration in South Asia. Pakistan has a tense relationship with India mainly due to the Kashmir conflict. India and Pakistan fought three major wars over the territorial disputes in Kashmir in 1947, 1965 and 1999. All three countries involved in the Kashmir issue; India, China and Pakistan have nuclear weapons and it would be disastrous if these countries start a nuclear war. Indo - Pakistan relations grew increasingly sour particularly after the Siachen conflict in 1984, intensification of the Kashmir insurgency in 1989, Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests in 1998 and the 1999 Kargil War. The long running dispute over Kashmir and cross- border terrorism have been the predominant causes for India- Pakistan conflict and this has created many security implications in the South Asian region. This research focuses on the security aspect of India-Pakistan conflict on the South Asian region. This research will predominantly utilise the qualitative methodology and data will be collected from both primary and secondary sources.

*Keywords*— India-Pakistan Conflict, Security implications, South Asia, Kashmir conflict

## I. INTRODUCTION

South Asia has a geo-strategic importance due to its location between West Asia and Southeast Asia. India and Pakistan are dominant and rival states in South Asia. South Asia is the only place in the world where there is a risk that two nuclear-armed states could go to war with each other. India-Pakistan conflict has been a central and a persistent theme in South Asian

politics and the conflict can affect Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with India and Pakistan. The inter-state conflict between India and Pakistan has brought in vulnerability to the South Asian region. This research is significant as it undertakes a current discussion of global and regional importance. The India-Pakistan conflict remains one of the most enduring and unresolved conflicts in the world. Following the British withdrawal from India, Britain realized the vast cultural differences between the Muslims and the Hindus and established political boundaries based on those disparities. The partition of British India was followed by intense violence and bloodshed that left a permanent scar on both nations. This has been a wound so deep that even today the two states have not been able to overcome their hatred and mistrust towards each other. After the partition of British India, nearly 50% of the Muslim population remained in the Indian Republic, ultimately leading to an anti-climax where India today has a larger Muslim population than Pakistan. The conflict began with the birth of the two states, India and Pakistan in 1947, following the partition of British India. Since then, the conflict has affected every dimension of interstate and societal relations between the two countries and despite occasional peace initiatives, it shows no signs of abating. Since 1998, as these two rival states started brandishing nuclear weapons openly, the issue of security has become a major concern in the South Asian region. This study conducts an interpretive analysis to identify the security implications of India-Pakistan conflict on South Asia.

## II. DISCUSSION

### I. Kashmir Conflict

Pakistan has a tense relationship with India mainly due to the Kashmir conflict. The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir in the centre of Asia has been of crucial strategic importance because it shares borders with Afghanistan, China, Tibet and even Russia. The acquisition of Kashmir became a status symbol and a component of power struggle between India and Pakistan (Kumar, 1989). The security and stability in Kashmir is vital for the peace not only of India and Pakistan, but also of South Asian region as a whole. India and Pakistan fought three major wars over the

territorial disputes in Kashmir in 1947, 1965 and 1999. All three countries involved in the Kashmir issue; India, China and Pakistan have nuclear weapons and it would be disastrous if these countries start a nuclear war. There is a competition between India and Pakistan for the control of Kashmir and they try to gain allies abroad and at home in this struggle. With the Kashmir dispute unsettled, Pakistan fears possible Indian initiatives to incite discord in Sind and India fears Pakistan's support for extremist groups in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The long-term strategic goal of Pakistan is to prevent India from emerging as the most influential power in the South Asian region. Further, the power structure of Pakistan has a profound antagonism towards Hindu majority civil society in India. This Hindu-Muslim rivalry has elevated the inter-state hostility.

Although there has been a tenuous cease-fire between the two countries since 2003, they still frequently exchange fire across the Line of Control, the disputed border. An effective cease-fire existed earlier, from 2003 to 2008, but it was interrupted by the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack, which was linked to Pakistani government officials. After some phases of co-operation and defection in the period 1996-2016, the cooperative efforts in India-Pakistan relations have largely stopped after 2016 due to a number of reasons. Between 2016 and 2018 there were a series of armed clashes between India and Pakistan, mostly consisting of heavy exchanges of gunfire between Indian and Pakistani forces across the *de facto* border, known as the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir. Thousands of civilians were displaced on both sides of the Line of Control as a result of these border skirmishes.

#### *B. Nuclear Security Dimension of India-Pakistan Conflict*

Since India and Pakistan became open nuclear powers in 1998, any conflict between India and Pakistan has the potential of escalating into a nuclear war in the subcontinent. Former President of the United States Bill Clinton once described South Asia as the most dangerous place on Earth on the eve of two emerging antagonistic nuclear powers. Therefore, India and Pakistan are perhaps the most dangerous neighbours on the globe with opposing ethnic and religious forces threatening for fetching social and political upheavals. In order to counter India's conventional dominance, Pakistan acquired nuclear weapons. Pakistan became the world's fastest-growing nuclear power between

2006 and 2011, doubling the number of atomic weapons it possessed. However, given the widening disparity between India and Pakistan's economic and military capabilities, it seems unlikely that Pakistan will ever be able to match India's power. Pakistan has attempted to strengthen itself by allying with the USA, China, and the Islamic states as it cannot compete with India's superior capabilities on its own. India should grant the highest level of assurances about nuclear security given its expanding involvement in the nuclear weapons industry. India can initiate talks with Pakistan about transparency in its nuclear policies, proliferation, and disarmament in order to foster more confidence and ease tensions with Pakistan.

### III. RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

India-Pakistan rivalry has hindered the regional consciousness and integration in South Asia, and it is a major challenge for the smooth functioning of SAARC. The 19th SAARC summit, which was scheduled to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2016, was cancelled after an attack on an Indian army camp in Uri, Kashmir. India-Pakistan conflict has also hindered the smooth flow of products, services, capital, people and ideas within the South Asian region. The bilateral political rivalries between India and Pakistan have been playing a negative role in the advancement of South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), which was founded in 2004.

India-Pakistan conflict is intensified by growing inequalities, caste and class system, ethnic and religious intolerance and the elite rule in politics. The rivalry between India and Pakistan is mostly centered on the elites of the two countries and the common people of both countries share many socio-cultural norms (Pervez, 2012). Today many ruling elites of both countries belong to a new generation largely unaffected by past rivalries who are beginning to view Indo-Pakistan hostility as a major hindrance to their national and international ambitions.

The rivalry between India and Pakistan has long been regarded as the borderline for South Asia's security dynamics. Being the only major regional organization in which both India and Pakistan are members, SAARC can play a vital role in the settlement of disputes and the establishment of peace in South Asia. The 2019 February Pulwama attack in Jammu and Kashmir has been widely condemned by SAARC members. This stance demonstrates that the SAARC member states have realized how India-Pakistan

conflict affects the entire South Asian region and have emphasized the necessity for peaceful conflict resolution through negotiation and diplomacy.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

India-Pakistan conflict is critical to the future of South Asia. The origins of the conflict are complex and have many ramifications. The factors and the circumstances that led to the partition of the Indian sub-continent are largely responsible for the present state of bilateral affairs between India and Pakistan. The colonial rulers adopted the policy of divide and rule, and they succeeded in keeping the Hindus and the Muslims apart. India and Pakistan are locked in adversity, burdened by inadequacies in terms of territorial and political identities and devilled by misunderstanding, suspicion and animosity (Dixit, 2002). The mistrust, suspicion and insecurity has persisted until today and the two states have been unable to live as friendly neighbors. Therefore, it is only in the spirit of mutual trust, both India and Pakistan can find out some ways to resolve the dispute.

After India's newly elected Prime Minister Modi welcomed Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to his inauguration in 2014, there were expectations that Modi's administration will engage in substantive peace talks with Pakistan. In 2015, Prime Minister Modi paid a surprise visit to Lahore to meet with Prime Minister Sharif. However, the prospects towards fruitful negotiations came to an end in September 2016, when armed militants attacked an Indian Army camp in Uri, near to the Line of Control, killing eighteen Indian soldiers, which was one of the deadliest attacks on the Indian armed forces in decades.

The long running dispute over Kashmir and cross-border terrorism have been the predominant causes for India- Pakistan conflict and this has created many security implications in the South Asian region. The development of economic interdependence between the two states may generate new prospects for rivalry termination. Beyond normal diplomatic relations, India and Pakistan can cooperate in numerous ways including confidence-building measures, high-level summits and other stabilizing measures. External parties, like the United States, have emphasized that South Asia is a hotbed for terrorism and religious extremism. As a result, they desire to intervene in preserving regional stability, limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, and reducing the probability of a nuclear war in South Asia.

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## President Trump's Approach Towards Iran's; The Impact of USA Sanctions on Iran's Foreign Relations

HR Athauda

**Abstract**— *US and Iran crisis is a significant phenomenon recorded in 21st century in international system. Iran and US maintained a relationship based on fundamental resources in energy such as oil from 1950's. With the nationalization of Iran's oil companies which was controlled by Britain, marked a new phase of US and Iran conflict. Iran is a country that has a Strong economy due to its natural resources and this economic stability increased its power in Middle East and over the other continents. Eventually they developed nuclear arms as well. Main reasons for US's limitations and sanctions towards Iran was this advancement of their economy. In addition to that, the Iranian takeover of the American Embassy on November 4, 1979, the United States and Iran severed diplomatic relations in April 1980. The United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran have had no formal diplomatic relationship since that date Appointment of Donald Trumps as US president, tensions between US and Iran became worst. Trump s approach towards Iran was harsh and put "maximum pressure" on Iran by economic sanctions after the withdrawal of JCPOA. Both military and non-military attacks escalated on ground, air as well as in the sea. However, Iran s strategic innovations and strong economy faced this problem successful and managed to maintain their sustainable development. In this situation, US sanctions was an influential element in shaping foreign relations of Iran. It encouraged Iran to build up new bilateral relations with countries such as India and China. This research will be focusing on US and Iran actions after the appointment of Donald Trumps and how US sanctions impacted on foreign relations of Iran.*

**Keywords** - *Trump's Presidency, US Sanctions, Iran, Foreign relations*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Relationship between Iran and US has a long history, and it is based on oil distribution and the nuclear arms around the world. Major event that affected to this

situation is the Nationalization of the Britain owned Anglo-Persian Oil Company by Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddeq. Then coup brought western friendly Shah back to the power as a puppet of USA and United Kingdom. Shah signed Oil Agreement which gave US, British and French oil companies 40% ownership of oil industry of Iran for 25 years. Formation of OPEC skyrocketed Iran's profit on oil due to the high demand for the energy sources in Iran and other Middle East countries and again US started approaching Iran through Shah alliance. However, Shah fled amid a widespread civil unrest and Khomeini who followed anti-War Islamic Theory came to power in Iran. After Khomeini's appointment, tensions between Iran and Us increased as Iran Hostage crisis, Iran, and Iraq War. Relationship between US and Iran was shaped according to the US president's perspective over time. Some presidents wanted to collaborate with them to take oils and some offended them. As a result of that they imposed economic sanctions, oil, and gas trade embargos mainly due to the Iran's nuclear strength.

Among the presidencies in US, Trump's presidency was one of the crucial one regarding Iran. During Presidency, US withdraw from

JCPOA signed in 2018 between Iran, Us and P5+1 and imposed sanctions to place "maximum pressure" on Iran. These sanctions were considerably hard to Iran as US was one of the largest oil buyers of Iran. Again, President Trump

Officially announced Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, Tehran's most powerful military institution, as a foreign terrorist organization. However, Iran reacted to these actions by boosting uranium enrichment and conducting ballistic-missile tests that were resulted with beginning of rhetorical and military escalation between two states. That military escalation was hard to both countries.

Amid this large attack, Iran kept increasing its economy and started discussions with other countries for economic and political support and collaborations. Crisis between US and Iran considerably impacted on

Iran's relations with other countries which resulted negatively and positively.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. *Reasons For Trumps Offensive Behaviour*

The evidence from the past offers an answer. One of Trump's formative experiences in considering the role of America in the world was the Iranian revolution, which resulted in the hostage crisis and an oil crisis. Trump was very concerned with the situation of US during the hostage crisis as powerful country in the world. Trump accused Iran of **always sponsoring terrorism by providing money and weapons and not preventing the development of its long-range missile system** (Hezbollah, Hamas, and Palestine Islamic Jihad). He condemned it as supporting to threat to US by Iran.

Another reason for these actions specially the withdraws of JCPOA was though The JCPOA prohibited Iran from enriching uranium past 3.67% until 2030, but in reaction to US violations, Iran is doing so and raising the purity of its stockpile. Also, Plutonium is the preferred fissile material of the other nuclear-armed states. The Trump Administration has granted Iran a waiver for modifying Iran's Arak heavy water reactor. Additionally, if the Trump Administration was worried about the JCPOA's sunset clauses, improving the agreement would seem simpler than tearing it down and beginning over. The Trump team could have also pushed for negotiations on a testing moratorium or regional accession to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty. Either option would have reduced proliferation threats in the region, and both would have been easier to achieve than pulling out of the JCPOA. The Trump team could have also pushed for negotiations on a testing moratorium or regional accession to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Either option would have reduced proliferation threats in the region, and both would have been easier to achieve than pulling out of the JCPOA.

### A. *Actions Taken by Trump*

#### 1. *Withdrawal of JCPOA*

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), often known as the Iran Nuclear Agreement, is a historic agreement that was made between Iran and other superpowers, notably the United States, in July 2015. In accordance with its provisions, Iran consented to destroy a large portion of its nuclear

program and permit more thorough international inspections of its facilities in exchange for sanctions relief worth billions of dollars. Proponents of the deal said that it would help prevent a revival of Iran's nuclear weapons program and thereby reduce the prospects for conflict between Iran and its regional rivals, including Israel and Saudi Arabia. The P5+1 aimed to scale back Iran's nuclear program such that it would take at least a year for Tehran to develop a nuclear bomb, giving other countries time to retaliate. U.S. intelligence sources predicted Iran could build enough nuclear material for a bomb in a few months without an agreement going into the JCPOA talks. The negotiating parties feared that Iran's efforts to develop nuclear weapons could cause the region to spiral into another catastrophe. Israel had taken military action ahead of time against alleged nuclear sites in Iraq and Syria, and it could do the same against Iran without risking retaliation from the Hezbollah in Lebanon or a disruption of oil shipping in the Persian Gulf. The P5+1 had been talking with Iran for years before the JCPOA, providing its government with numerous inducements to stop uranium enrichment. The sides reached a preliminary understanding to serve as a roadmap for negotiations for a comprehensive settlement following the election of President Hassan Rouhani in 2013, who was regarded as a reformer.

However, in May 2018, then-US President Donald Trump abandoned the JCPOA, calling it "defective at its core". He reinstated all US sanctions on Iran that November as part of a "maximum pressure" campaign to compel the country to negotiate a replacement that would also curb its ballistic missile programme and its involvement in regional conflicts.

Also, The Trump administration announces it will designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. It is the first time the U.S. declares part of another nation's government as a terrorist organization.

#### 2. *New Sanctions*

The Trump administration slapped more than 1,500 sanctions on Iran or foreign firms or people who transacted business with Iran between 2018 and 2021. They targeted both people and large organizations, including the Central Bank, the Revolutionary Guards, and the office of the supreme leader. The sanctions were a key component of Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign after he withdrew the United States from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Sanctions were associated with one or more of five issues:

- Its controversial nuclear program
- Development and testing of ballistic missiles
- Intervention in the region and support for extremist proxy militias
- Cyber attacks
- Human rights abuses

Additionally, the unconventional action of imposing sanctions on Iran's banking and oil industries for financing the terrorist actions of the Revolutionary Guards and its proxies was taken by the Trump administration. Even after the election in November 2020, when it placed a strong emphasis on Iran's human rights abuses, the government accelerated and broadened the scope of sanctions.

#### *B. Iran's Reactions Towards Trumps Actions*

Iran declined, causing its economy to enter a recession and its currency value to drop to historic lows. As a result, inflation in Iran shot up to its highest level in decades.

Economic growth that followed the lifting of sanctions in 2016 has given way to an inflationary recession. The Iranian currency has lost two-thirds of its value, and oil exports, which are a crucial source of government revenue, have dropped from 2.5 million barrels/day to less than 0.5 million barrels/day.

This has resulted in Iran's return to strengthening its nuclear capabilities, increasing the political vulnerability to the US military action with helping Saudi and Israeli and opposing European and Russian.

#### *C. Developing Relations with Other Countries.*

##### *1. Relationship with China*

China maintained trade ties with ancient Persia via the Silk Road for thousands of years. Iran and China established diplomatic relations in 1971. With the sanctions imposed, Iran faced a huge economic isolation in their region since Sanctions prohibited to EU to maintaining relationship with Iran. China as the main trade partner of Iran, 92 percent of what it buys are oil and minerals, not finished goods. The fact that global inflation, especially in commodities, is rising and Iran's trade with China can see an uptick in terms of value but not volume. Preparatory work has begun to work out details of cooperation with China

according to the 25-year agreement, but besides the impediment of US sanctions, there are issues of securing credit and financing, which must be resolved regarding each area of cooperation.

One of the processes in expanding trade ties with Beijing is establishing Iranian representative offices in China, work in progress. Plans are to open four chamber of commerce branches, but he did not say in which Chinese cities. Also, a permanent exhibit of Iranian goods is planned to be set up in China. Although the Islamic government in Tehran often tries to highlight what it says is close ties with China, Beijing has established wide-ranging commercial relations with other regional countries, including Saudi Arabia and Israel that are the Islamic Republic of Iran's adversaries.

##### *2. Relationship with India*

To avoid upsetting the US, India has spent years trying to discover ways around the sanctions against Iran. India took advantage of the fact that the United States' sanctions did not cover commerce in the Indian Rupee after leaving the ACU (INR).

Through the state-owned UCO Bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) established a system akin to barter with Iran.

Iranian exporters received non-convertible INR balances from UCO Bank in exchange for their oil, which were deemed sanction-safe because UCO Bank had no exposure to the US. Even though oil exporters would have wanted to settle transactions in a more liquid currency, Iran agreed to the agreement.

##### *3. Relationship with others.*

In 2012, Canada cut ties with Iran in support of the United States; but, in 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau declared that Canada was willing to resume relations with Iran. Iran, on the other hand, and Mexico have close political and commercial ties. When the North American Free Trade Agreement's sunset clause takes effect, it will be interesting to see how these ties evolve and what effects they have on US-Canada Mexico relations.

Russia itself is a significant oil exporter and continues to enjoy a secure position as one of the world's biggest producers of oil. Through politics, trade agreements, invasions, and wars, the United States has continued



to pursue its goal of being the world's top oil exporter. The US moved further closer to attaining its objective and dominating the global oil market in 2019. 19 However, as the permafrost begins to thaw owing to climate change, Russia has been eager to capitalize on fresh oil deposits discovered in the Russian-Antarctic. 20 These finds, combined with Russia's cooperation with Iran, may result in the two US-recognized nations becoming as the world's top oil producers.

India-Iran since the United States imposed sanctions on Iran after leaving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018, bilateral relations have been dealing with a number of issues. Despite Indian refiners' eagerness to buy oil from Iran, the bilateral energy relations between India and Iran have not yet been repaired. The greatest barrier to restarting bilateral energy cooperation is still the U.S. sanctions on Iran.

The long-lasting effects of the sanctions will continue to restrict Tehran's economic prospects because the Iranian economy is heavily dependent on oil revenue, particularly since recently Iran's major energy customers, like the Chinese teapot refiners, have also turned to Russia for less expensive oil. Furthermore, as the Iranian leadership has grown more adamant and violent in its reactions to internal unrest, Iran is now subject to greater Western sanctions.

## VI. RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

USA approach towards Iran Changed significantly after the appointment of President Trump due to Iran's support extended to terrorist groups which posed a major threat to US national security.

Similarly, imposed sanctions pressured Iran vehemently, and that resulted in Iran seeking assistance and relations from other countries instead of Europe and USA. Thereby many countries were there for the support of Iran due to their rich energy resources, notably China took forefront in this endeavor.

Iran's strategic approaches has highly impacted to overcome these sanctions and embargoes over time. And the trump administration has been scrutinized by the international community over these actions.

## VII. CONCLUSION

After the appointment of Trump as the President in United States he wanted to maximize the pressure towards Iran. US believed that Iran is supporting to the terrorist actions against US by providing them with military equipment and economic support. With that as stated in his election campaigns, Trump got a controversial action by withdrawing JCPOA and reimposed the sanctions on financial, nuclear and oil, missile. However, though these sanctions are imposed to pressurize Iran, they were strategic enough to overcome these challenges by increasing new relations. These relations supported to increase oil exports and other economic aspects.

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## **PANEL II**

# **BORDERS & GEOPOLITICAL COMPULSIONS**

# The Resurgence of Taliban in Afghanistan in 2021 And Its Impact on The Violation of Human Rights

Yashinika Nirmani Manamperi

**Abstract** - This research focuses on the resurgence of the Taliban in 2021 and its impacts on human rights violations. The Taliban launched the longest war in US history in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2021. The Taliban came to power and took over Afghanistan in 2021 and they resurged in Afghanistan. Since the fall of the Afghan government and the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, the situation of human rights in Afghanistan has been severely violated. The Taliban is a group of Islamic fundamentalists. This Islamic group was established in the early 1990s by Islamic guerilla fighters. Therefore, this research will be provided a better understanding of the formation of the Taliban in the early 1990s, their return to power in 2021, and under the rule of Taliban the violations of human rights in Afghanistan. With the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan, there have been lots of economic, social, and political threats happening in the country. Through this research will be identified the violation of human rights in Afghanistan by the Taliban and its influence on Afghan people's life and on Afghanistan's economy and society. The study will be based on explanative research philosophy and the researcher intends to present an explanative of the research problem. The research will be conducted under a qualitative design. The research will use both primary and secondary sources to this research.

**Keywords**- human rights, Taliban, violations, resurgence

## I. INTRODUCTION

The US-led coalition began attacks on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and the US invaded Afghanistan on October 7, 2001, due to the Taliban

rejecting to hand over terrorist leader Osama bin Laden after the 9/11 attack on the United States on September 11, 2001. In 2020, they returned to Afghanistan and in February 2020, a peace agreement was signed between the US government and the Taliban to withdraw the US troops from Afghanistan. On August 15, 2021, they took over Afghanistan and returned to power after establishing groups in Pakistan. Due to the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2021, there were lots of human rights violations continued across Afghanistan including arbitrary executions, torture, the rights of women and girls, religious freedom, and began retaliations against human rights defenders such as women rights activists, journalists, and religious minorities and the Afghan people had to face lots of humanitarian crisis. According to human rights reports, Afghanistan became a major place for human rights abuses. The violation of women's and girls' rights is one of the major human rights violations done by the Taliban. The Taliban's policies that violate human rights have greatly hindered the health and education of women and girls. The Taliban have violated the educational rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. The Taliban have forbidden women and girls from secondary to higher education and they tried to force them more into religious studies. They establish limitations on what women can wear, how they can travel, how they can be discriminated against at work based on their sex, and even what kind of cell phones they can own. Therefore, the Taliban also banned women's right of doing a job and most of the women in Afghanistan lost their jobs. According to the Taliban's policies, women are not allowed to work. Due to the loss of employment of women, they lost their income. Most of those who are still working have not been compensated. Women are now subject to new rules regarding how they should behave and dress, which have an impact on every area of their lives, including their potential employment paths. According to their new policies Women can only work as teachers or nurses. Women are forbidden from traveling alone for more than 70 kilometers (40 miles) and are forced to

cover their faces in public. Therefore, religious freedom has also been violated by the Taliban. According to them, Minority religious groups can freely practice their religions without having to register, but they are not permitted to promote their beliefs through proselytizing. The President and Vice President must both be Muslims, and Islam is the state religion. All laws must also be in accordance with Islamic morality. Under Taliban rule, there isn't any freedom of speech and media. They imposed some restrictions on the freedom of media and Journalists and legal professionals have been the victim of threats and intimidation, particularly outside of Kabul. Women rights activists and religious minorities have also been threatened by the Taliban. Therefore, extrajudicial executions such as hanging, shooting, stoning, and flogging were used as methods of punishment by the Taliban. This research will provide an understanding of the resurgence and the impacts of human rights violations by the Taliban.

## II. EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

This research is focusing on the resurgence of the Taliban and its effects on human rights violations. The study will be based on explanative research philosophy and the researcher intends to present interpretations of the research problem. The research is conducted under a qualitative method. The way of violating human rights by the Taliban will be discussed in this research. In addition, the research will use both primary and secondary sources.

## III. METHODOLOGY

This research is conducted under a qualitative method. The information for this research relies on secondary sources on the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The research is based on the use of libraries and e-library as Sources to gather topic-related academic books, articles, journals, etc. The research collects information through the use of books, journals, newspaper articles, web pages, etc. firstly, the background of the problem is discussed and then the research discusses the research problem. Lastly, the research is discussed and concluded by providing a detailed description of the impacts of the resurgence of human rights violations.

## IV. DISCUSSION

The Taliban is one of the major terrorist groups in the world. They were established in the early 1990s in Afghanistan, and they also became a huge threat to the world and to Afghanistan. They fled due to the US

invasion in Afghanistan, and they resurged and came to power in Afghanistan in 2021 after signing a peace agreement with the government of the United States on 15 august, 2021. Due to the arrival of the Taliban to power, the Afghan people had to face lots of problems. Violations of human rights are the major threat that they had to face. It is very important to know what kind of human rights violations the people in Afghanistan are facing due to the rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The violation of women's' and girls' rights is the major human rights violation that happened under their rule. They have banned the educational rights of women and girls. They also have banned the right to employment of women, and they limited what women can do as a profession because according to their policies women are not allowed to work. They have imposed limitations on what women can wear and travel limitations. Torture, loss of the freedom of religion and media and began retaliations against human rights defenders became a threat to religious minorities in Afghanistan.

## V. RESULTS

Through my research, I found that there were lots of human rights violations happened under their rule. Especially with regards to women and girls' rights violations. Mostly, educational rights of women were heavily violated by the Taliban. They limited the freedom of women and girls preventing them from doing what they want. The main impact of Taliban's rule was on women. They decided what women can wear, what they must study, what kind of cell phones they are to use and what kind of jobs they can do, furthermore they curtailed and banned employment rights.

## VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Under the Taliban rule, many human right violations took place and continues to take place. International actors must actively engage and invest in Afghanistan's private sector to build trust, encourage risk-taking, and stimulate in-country financial transactions. The private sector is currently enabled by comfort letters and general licenses issued by governments which serve as sanctions exceptions. The international organizations such as the United Nations Organization and its institutions like human rights council, human rights committees must take suitable actions and measures regarding this problem, as, lots of human rights are violated during this Taliban period. To prevent or to limit these violations, international organizations and institutions must take

measures and make treaties with Taliban to discuss these problems.

## VII. CONCLUSION

The resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2021 was one of the major incidents that happened in 2021. This Islamic fundamentalist group became a huge threat to Afghan people, especially to Afghan women and girls. With the arrival of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan, there are a lot of human rights violations happening under their rule. They are arbitrary executions, torture, the rights of women and girls, religious freedom, and began retaliations against human rights defenders such as women rights activists, journalists, and religious minorities and the Afghan people had to face lots of humanitarian crises. The women's and girls' rights violations are the major violation of human rights done by the Taliban. International organizations and institutions such as UNO must be aware and take suitable actions to protect the human rights of the Afghan people. International intervention must be there to protect those people especially women, girls, and children, and their rights.

## ABBREVIATIONS

US	United States
UNO	United Nations Organization

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# Illegal Boat Migrations from Sri Lanka to Australia in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; A Case Study on Negombo

MHN Wijesinghe

**Abstract**— Sri Lanka and Australia are surrounded by water. Both countries have access from outside by the sea. Mostly illegal migrations are happening toward Australia by sea. Illegal migration typically moves upward in terms of wealth, from poorer to richer nations. Illegal boat migration is a type of illegal migration. There have been huge number of illegal boat migrations from Sri Lanka to Australia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Negombo is one of the areas where most illegal boat migration attempts are arrested in Sri Lanka. For that, there may be special reasons. Further, there are different pull and push factors for these illegal boat migrations. Therefore, a problem arises to find pull and push factors for these illegal boat migrations. The significance of this research is that provides an understanding of the push and pull factors of illegal boat migration from Sri Lanka to Australia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and it also provides an understanding of why Negombo is one of the main points for these illegal boat migrations. To identify push factors and why Sri Lankan migrants mostly choose Australia to illegally migrate by boats, to identify why Negombo is one of the main points for these illegal boat migrations, and to identify what are the pull factors from Australia are the objectives purported to achieve by this research. To achieve a holistic outcome, the research utilizes mixed methodology. Finally, the research will demonstrate the pull and push factors of illegal boat migration from Sri Lanka to Australia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Keywords** - illegal, boat migration, Negombo

## I. INTRODUCTION

Migration has existed from the beginning of written history. In the past, people have migrated for various reasons, from one state to another. The causes could be for personal needs like food, housing, or protection. Migration affects both the receiving and sending countries in a positive and negative way. The world is currently focused on migration because it has grown quickly, like many other human activities. It has grown to be a significant security threat for many nations. People's desire to move to any country they choose for a variety of reasons creates migration. The causes could be pulled or pushed elements from the other country or the native country. Most often, people move for common motives including the need for economic prosperity, political issues, family reunion, safety from war or natural disasters, or just the desire to experience something new. The control of international migration that is currently in place has typically served many countries, including Australia, relatively well throughout contemporary history. As a result of orderly migration, economies have grown, people have developed more, we have been able to safeguard vast numbers of people who are being persecuted, and hundreds of thousands of people have been able to establish fulfilling lives overseas. Illegal migration is the movement of persons into a state in violation of that nation's migration laws or their continuing abode there without a valid visa. Financially, illegal boat migration seems to go up from poor to wealthy countries. There are different destinations for illegal boat migration in the world. One of the most popular illegal boat destinations for Sri Lankans in Australia. There are a huge number of boat migrations happening from Sri Lanka to Australia. And according to Sri Lanka Navy Headquarters, since the end of the war, border security was a major issue. Increased illegal migrations and human smuggling into Australia had caused border security to be seriously considered. This research conducts an empirical investigation to determine the pull and push factors of illegal boat migrations from Sri Lanka to Australia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: A case study on Negombo.

## II. DISCUSSION

It is believed that most illegal boat migrations from Sri Lanka began to increase from 2009 and males between the age limits of 20 to 40 are the most involved in these migrations. Sri Lankans made up the largest single country group among boat arrivals in Australia for the first time in 2012. That amounted to 6412 migrants and those Sri Lankan people, including Sinhalese, made the journey to Australia by boat without passing through an official Sri Lankan port. The majority of those who enter Australia without a visa seek refuge. Complications created by the rapid inflow of over 6,000 asylum-seeking irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs) from Sri Lanka in 2012–2013 were exacerbated throughout Australia. Since October 2013, all marine people smugglers with an intended destination of Australia have been sent back to Sri Lanka. With the election of a new Australian government, the policies related to unauthorized maritime people smuggling remained unchanged. What is Deportation? Deportation is a tactic used by certain countries to eject foreign nationals from their native countries. In this case, all arrested illegal boat migrant groups are detained at Christmas Island and Cocos Island. Then, the Australian Border Force will hand over the repatriated groups to the Immigration and Emigration Department through the Sri Lanka Navy onward legal proceedings. There are no illegal boat ventures arrested from Sri Lanka to Australia in 2020. Speaking to media figures, Australian Border Force Commander Chris Waters, Regional Director for South Asia, disclosed that 183 Sri Lankan nationals—including illegal immigrants—who were seeking to immigrate to Australia unlawfully had been returned since the month of May 2022.

### A. *Push Factors as To Why Sri Lankan Migrants Mostly Choose Australia to Illegally Migrate by Boats.*

#### 1. *Economic issues (Economic crisis)*

Stories from boat migrants depict complex economic motivations for their journeys, the boats are filled solely or primarily with economic migrants. It is evident that the Sri Lankan illegal boat migrations have increased with the worsening economic crises in Sri Lanka. Economic migrants are just looking for work and great living conditions in Australia. 90% of boat migrants to Australia historically have been deemed to be refugees. One of the younger boys

claimed that due to his limited career options, he had attempted to travel to Australia by boat. He was ready to receive his university degree, but he was a nervous student and thought his chances of making more than 25,000 rupees per month after graduation were limited. For the first time among boat arrivals in Australia in 2012, Sri Lankans made up the largest single-country group. It is challenging to pinpoint what has caused this abrupt and exponential rise in boat immigration to Australia four years after the civil war ended. Economic migrants just looking for work and great living conditions in Australia are in large numbers aboard the boats.

#### 2. *Reflection on politics and the context impact of war on the public life*

The contentious ethnopolitics of Sri Lanka must be understood in the context of the 30-year civil war between the Sinhalese and the Tamils. The horrific assaults on the Tamil minority in 1983, were sometimes referred to as the "Black July riots" or "anti-Tamil pogroms." The 2009 military end to the conflict "led to the displacement of the 280-300,000 individuals who fled the LTTE-controlled regions in the north of the nation" and marked a sharp surge in the number of persons coming by boat and requesting refuge in Australia.

#### 3. *Unemployment*

1000 Sinhala immigrants landed in Australia in 2012, showing that boat people are not just Tamils. Discrimination may occur alongside their economic motivations even for such persons. One young Sinhala guy claimed that joining a program for migrant workers would have been his first choice, but that he had not been selected because of politics. He completed the required official tests, but due to political issues, he was not chosen to travel to Korea. In addition to that, a Muslim guy who works in the fishing harbor in Negombo claimed that he has 6 family members with 4 children, therefore he needs to earn more money. But there are limited career opportunities for his education level and earnings that could be made from such jobs are not enough to run a family like his. That's why he decided to illegally migrate to Australia.

Due to the current economic situation in Sri Lanka (2022), the money earned is not enough to live on and there are no suitable jobs for their educational qualifications, thus leading again to these risky migrations.



#### *4. Family reunion and Protection*

If some family members have moved to Australia before, other members of those families decide to move to Australia to join their families as before. They plan to reunite. For example, if the husband has migrated to Australia, the wife and children also decide to move to the husband's or father's place. And a person who came under this research sample claimed that he decided to go to Australia because he had death threats from a certain group of people.

#### *5. Smugglers' influence (Earn black money)*

Due to the establishment of fishing harbors around the country and the ample availability of boats, it is easy and cheaper for smugglers to buy boats. Smugglers are inclined to human smuggling for their own benefit. They always aim to make maximum profits. For example, they buy dilapidated boats to use for these illegal boat migrations. The reason is that dilapidated, weak boats are cheaper than others. They are not concerned about the dangers and inconveniences people may face. They can easily collect people without being noticed by law enforcement. What these smugglers always do is try to persuade people to go to Australia by using this illegal method. For example, smugglers mislead people by claiming that they have been offered employment by the Australian government or falsely claiming that there are job vacancies in the private sector. In this way, people are misguided and forced to go to Australia. According to some others, it appears that smugglers are the reason why Australia is the main destination for illegal boat migration from Sri Lanka. When asked from some migrants, they answered, the reason they went to Australia instead of to another country was because of smugglers convincing them. They do not have a say in deciding which destination is chosen because that is decided by smugglers.

### *B. What Are the Pull Factors from Australia?*

#### *1. Proximity*

As Sri Lanka is centrally located in the Indian Ocean whereas distance from Sri Lanka to Australia is approx. 1800Nm (1Nm=3.33km) approx.14 days away which is considerably closer to any other well-stable country. Australia is one of the countries where Sri Lankan people can go by boat. Because Australia is a developed, and easy- to live country close to Sri Lanka. Much more benefited than going to any other nearest countries. Australia's proximity is one of the

main pull factors for Sri Lankan boat migrants. People are more inclined to move to a nearby developed country than to an under-developing country. Sri Lankan illegal migrants are mostly trying to get caught by the Australian border force when migrating to Australia by boat. And these migrants are aiming to get caught on the surveillance radar or aircraft radar and get arrested. The reason is they believe then they can get asylum in Australia. They are mainly targeting Cocos and Christmas Islands. But the migrants are not able to reach those islands. Because they have arrested by the Australian Border Force before reaching the island.

#### *2. Being a developed country*

Australia often ranks first or top in various rankings in the world, such as the human development index rankings, the richest, and most liveable countries. As a result, most individuals wish to immigrate to Australia, which makes it popular. The Australian experience has one of the highest life expectancy rates. All praise belongs to the excellent healthcare system. Migrants can enrol in a world-class healthcare system, allowing them to live a long life at a low cost that does not strain their budget. And migrants can have better living experiences than Sri Lanka. Development of all sectors is the reason for that. For Example, technology, and hospitality.

#### *3. Opportunities (jobs)*

As per the rapid economic growth, the Australian industry sector is booming, thereby, creating plenty of career opportunities for skilled workers. If people can migrate to Australia, they can have good career opportunities and can start a new life in Australia hassle-free. The regional state of the northern territory has more employment opportunities as compared to other states. It is because northern territory has an agreement known as DAMS (Designated area migration Agreement).

#### *4. Support from Smugglers, families, and friends in Australia*

Sometimes there are other smugglers who help Sri Lankan smugglers from Australia. But it happens rarely. Most of the time friends and family members who have settled down in Australia are supporting them during their arrival to Australia. It is also observed that these supporters are considered to be migrated to Australia by using illegal channels during early stages. Therefore, people in Sri Lanka tend to go to Australia by boat.

*C. Why Negombo Is One of The Main Points for Illegal Boat Migrations to Australia?*

*1. Fishing harbor*

There is a large fishing harbor in Negombo. Therefore, there are many boats around Negombo which makes it easier for the smugglers to buy boats for human smuggling. Due to the presence of a fishing harbor in Negombo, smugglers are inclined to human smuggling for their own benefit. This is one of the prime reasons for Negombo to be among the main points for illegal boat migrations in Sri Lanka. Further, most of the people living in Negombo area are fishermen. Due to the fuel crisis in 2022, they are unable to do their jobs. With that, they face a severe economic crisis. Therefore, this factor is also one of the main reasons why people from Negombo migrate to Australia.

*2. Low Cost*

Due to the fact that people from Negombo are mostly involved in these illegal migrations, most of the smugglers are from this area. Human smugglers try to get money anyway therefore they compete with other smugglers to find people. As a result, people are sent from the Negombo area to Australia at a lower cost compared to other areas in Sri Lanka. According to my findings, the amount of money extorted from an individual by smugglers is between half of a million to 1.6 million (5 to 16 lakh) rupees. Even though this is a huge amount of money, compared to money collected by smugglers from other areas it is cheaper. Therefore, I can mention that low cost is one reason for Negombo to be one of the main points of illegal boat migrations in Sri Lanka.

*D. Deportability And Deportation*

In Australia, the government decides who can enter the country, live there, become a citizen, be labeled as "illegal," and who needs to be expelled from the country. Deportation is a strategy that nations utilize to forcibly remove foreign nationals from their national territory. Deportation is a sort of forced migration in which people who don't leave the country with their own accord are actually dragged out of it while being tied and chained. Australia's hardline policy "Stop the boats", has bolstered (strengthened) the state's deportation rules and made the alleged asylum and refugee crisis worse.

*E. Efforts Made by Both Australian and Sri Lankan Governments*

Most of the Sri Lankan asylum seekers fled from their homes due to conflict and it led to seek protection in Australia. However, processing of asylum requests by Sri Lankans who went by boat was suspended in 2009 when the civil war in the country came to an end. In 2010, the Rudd government halted processing of refugee claims submitted by Sri Lankan asylum seekers with the justification that they could safely return to Sri Lanka in the absence of war (Johnson, 2010). The UNHCR expressed concern about this halt and asked the Australian government to adhere by the legal rules and clear processes when holding asylum seekers in immigration detention facilities for protracted time periods of time without a trial. The refugee claims of Sri Lankan boat migrants were suspended for three months in the same year when Julia Gillard was chosen as Prime Minister (Koser, 2010). The Rudd government's decision was criticized by refugee advocates, and including Human Rights Commissioner Cathy Branson, who said that it might result in serious violations of the international human rights legislation safeguarding vulnerable populations. The government uses the cancellation of asylum requests as a tactic to deter asylum seekers from Sri Lanka from arriving by boat. Australia hasn't changed its policy on the return of asylum seekers to Sri Lanka; instead, it looks for new opportunities for bilateral ties with Sri Lanka to "stop the boats" and to fight terrorism and human smuggling. The Sri Lankan government also signs several bilateral agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the government of Australia when enforcing deportation as a mean of demonstrating ongoing support for the Australian attempts to "bring back the boats." Implementing deportation, the Sri Lankan government also enters into many bilateral agreements and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Australian government as a way of showing continued support for the Australian efforts to "turn back the boats". While this cooperative relationship helps the Australian government prevent asylum seekers from arriving by boat, it also guarantees that the Sri Lankan government will get support from Australia for socioeconomic development. After the civil war ended, the Sri Lankan government said that there was no longer any armed conflict there and therefore leaving the nation for humanitarian reasons was not acceptable. The Australian government began to stop boats trying to enter their country and deport Sri Lankan asylum seekers from Christmas Island to

Colombo using charter flights it had funded for as part of this post-war reconciliation project. Even 10 years after the conclusion of the war, this has had a negative impact on several asylum seekers who arrive in Australia by boat.

### III. RESULTS

It is abundantly obvious that there are numerous reasons for concerns over illegal boat migrations from Sri Lanka to Australia, including the reasons why Negombo is considered one of the main points of illegal boat migrations in the 21st century.

- Economic reasons, political reasons, the impact of war on the public, lack of employment opportunities, protection, and smugglers' influence can be considered as some of the major push factors.
- Proximity, Australia being a developed country and job opportunities in Australia, support from smugglers, families, and friends can be considered as some of the major pull factors.
- Having a fishing harbor located in the Negombo area and low-cost offers by smugglers are the major reasons for Negombo to be one of the main points of illegal boat migrations.

### IV. CONCLUSION

Human migration is not a modern phenomenon that just began; rather, it is a phenomenon that first appeared in ancient times for a variety of causes. Considering the link between migrations, there are two sectors such as, domestic and international migrations. It may be split into legal and illegal (unauthorized) migration. Illegal migration has steadily grown over the world as compared with legal migration in the light of recent advancements. However, illegal migration has dramatically increased since the end of the civil war. These research findings demonstrate some pull and push factors of illegal boat migrations from Sri Lanka to Australia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Most of these migrants are economic migrants. However, there are various other reasons as well. Political reasons, impact of war on the public, lack of employment opportunities, Protection, and influence of smugglers can be considered as major push factors. In addition, being located in this proximity, being a developed country, job opportunities, and Support from Smugglers, families, and friends in Australia can be considered as main pull factors. These research

findings clearly demonstrate that having a fishing harbor located in the area and low-cost offers of the smugglers are the main reasons for Negombo to be one of the main points for illegal boat migrations from Sri Lanka to Australia.

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## Indian Illegal Fishing Over Sri Lankan Seas; Consequences on the Indo-Sri Lankan Relations

TSP Maheshi

**Abstract-** *Sri Lanka and India are two neighbouring countries and are divided by a slender swath of water made up of Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar. Indian fishermen continue to enter Sri Lankan waters to fish illegally and use illegal fishing techniques including bottom trawling, which is a chronic issue in the two states' fishery dispute. Even though defining territorial waters is not as simple as defining land, India and Sri Lanka's territorial waters were defined and demarcated in 1974 and 1976 through a bilateral agreement to establish the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). As a result, violating the IMBL and engaging in unlawful fishing or use of illegal fishing techniques is considered a violation of the agreements between the two governments, which are regulated by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Most of the research demonstrate how the Indo-Sri Lankan fishing conflict negatively affects Sri Lanka's and India's economies, fishers' livelihoods, and political stability. The fishing conflict has also had several detrimental effects, such as the degradation of fishery resources, an increase in enforcement costs, a decrease in foreign exchange profits, the arrest of fishermen, the presence of illegal commerce, and the smuggling of weapons and ammunition. The governments of India and Sri Lanka have taken several actions to end the fishing dispute. Even so, they haven't yet reached a consensus to find a peaceful, long-lasting solution, which is essential for developing the sector in a sustainable way. The goals of this research are twofold: first, to make a thorough assessment of the financial and livelihood losses that Sri Lanka and those directly impacted by these fishing disputes between Sri Lanka and India have suffered; and second, to investigate scientific or technical solutions to this protracted conflict to counteract the perceived lack of political solutions and the ineffectiveness of law enforcement. The research would be guided by the qualitative research methodology.*

**Keywords-** *Illegal fishing, IMBL, UNCLOS*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Since 2010, Sri Lanka's Northern Province has been rebuilding its economy from the ruins of the civil war, and according to the most recent data available, out of the country's nine provinces, it experienced the highest yearly growth rate. Poaching, which is illegal, by Indian fishermen, particularly those from the state of

Tamil Nadu, off the northern coast of Sri Lanka, has, nonetheless, stunted the development of the fishing sub-sector (largely off the districts of Jaffna and Mannar). Since the beginning of time, fishermen from India and Sri Lanka have fished cooperatively in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, and Palk Strait (the latter two being collectively referred to as the Sethusamudram). The marine resources on the Indian side of Palk Bay and elsewhere, however, have been overfished because of technological developments (new fishing vessels, including multi-day boats and trawlers, contemporary fishing nets, etc.). Due to the outbreak of the civil war in 1983 and the ensuing severe limitations on fishing enforced by Sri Lankan security forces, the fisherfolk in the north of the country have not been able to take advantage of such technological breakthroughs. Due to this, Indian fishermen have been engaging in illegal and unfair practices like "bottom trawling" and "pair trawling" in Sri Lankan waters, including the poaching of marine life. These practices are caused by the relative larger stock of marine resources on the Sri Lankan side of the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, and Palk Strait. Increasingly, it appears that those engaged in such poaching are not from Tamil Nadu's traditional fishing villages but rather are paid fishing laborers employed by wealthy trawler owners. As a result, unlike what is typically reported in Tamil Nadu's mass media, the conflict over poaching in Palk Bay has nothing to do with the competing livelihoods of fishermen from Tamil Nadu and northern Sri Lanka. Instead, it is about the illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing that Tamil Nadu's trawler owners and fishermen engage in, which is a practice that is universally outlawed. Large stocks of marine resources can be found in the areas surrounding the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, and Palk Strait, mainly because of the area's larger continental shelf, which has a mean depth of just three meters and extends up to Indian waters. Scholtens asserts that the typical depth in this region is nine meters. Muddy bottoms in the Palk Bay, Palk Strait, and Gulf of Mannar regions provide a plethora of habitats for valuable shrimp species. These places' shallow seafloor is also known to harbor abundant



populations of numerous uncommon, stationary, demersal fish.

## II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was based on the interpretative research philosophy since the fisheries conflict and its effects on India and Sri Lanka's bilateral relationship are the subject of this investigation. The researcher also plans to give other interpretations of the research problem. Data and information were gathered for the study from both primary and secondary sources. The research method was categorized as qualitative. An appropriate review of the literature was used to examine the issue. To collect primary data from a broad perspective, several semi-structured interviews were done. The use of political and security themes was used to develop a perspective on the diplomatic and public gains received by the nation.

## III. DISCUSSION

The unsolved Indo-Sri Lanka fishing conflict has impacted bilateral relations between the two nations. Despite various political, diplomatic, and civic endeavours, no solution has been found, and the situation is worsening. If this dispute does not end, it might have major ramifications for both nations' conventional marine security issues as well as human security concerns, notably for Sri Lanka's northern fisherman. Overall, this has an impact on overall security.

Although delineating the sea is far more difficult than delineating land, the bilateral agreements of 1974 and 1976, controlled by UNCLOS III, fully delimited and identified the seas between India and Sri Lanka. This agreement established standards and restrictions for both governments' usage of the sea between them. Even though this agreement provided for the right of innocent passage for navigational purposes, it made no provision for fishermen from either state to cross the IMBL into either state's water for fishing purposes. Nonetheless, Indian fishermen cross the IMBL into Sri Lankan seas daily in quest of a "better catch" (Fonseka, 2017). The Indian trawlers not only cross the IMBL and invade Sri Lankan seas, but they also engage in damaging bottom trawling, sometimes known as "benthic trawling." Bottom trawling has the potential to have far-reaching detrimental implications for the rich marine eco system and marine species of the Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar areas. These operations by Indian fisherman are unlawful, and Indian fishermen who have transgressed in Sri Lankan

seas have frequently been captured by the Sri Lanka Navy (SLN), tried for trespass, boats confiscated, and apprehended Indian fishermen even imprisoned. Yet given the friendly relations between the two states quite often imprisoned Indian fishermen have been sent back to Tamil Nadu on good will.

Security is of profound importance to states and humans alike. Traditional security in this context refers to marine security, which is important to state and state security issues, and human security, which deals with human instabilities as a result of the problem, both of which contribute to Comprehensive security.

The Indo-Lanka fishing dispute demonstrates clear symptoms of infringement of comprehensive security, which leads to threats in many elements of conventional security, which is a problem for the state, and human security, which amounts to human anxieties.

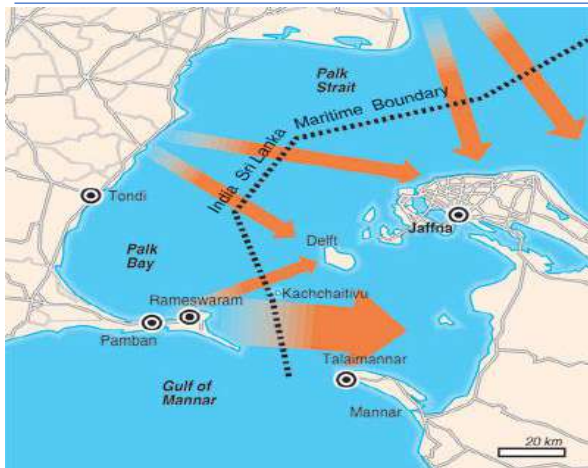
The issue of why this dispute has remained unsolved and persistent arises. Among numerous contributing variables, the researcher has recognized the political side of the problem, politicization and political polarization, as one of the key reasons why this dispute remains unsolved to this day.

## IV. RESULTS

### A. *The Aspects of Illegal Fishing*

Around 1000 - 2000 motorized boats of 32-42 feet, powered by 80, 100, and 120 HP, visit the Palk Strait, Palk Bay, and Gulf of Mannar region (Figure 1) three days each week (Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday) to engage in illegal fishing operations in Sri Lanka's territorial waters.

According to our observations, Indian fishers are coming from Tamil Nadu, Andhra, and Rameswaram, and almost all these fishers intentionally cross Sri Lanka's maritime boundary for better fishing opportunities, as Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar areas are very productive shallow fishing grounds rich in natural seagrass beds and benthic communities.



*Figure 1: Illegal fishing by Indian trawlers violating the maritime boundary of Sri Lanka*



*Figure 2: Fish caught through illegal fishing nets*

### *B. Diplomatic relations between India and Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka and India have conducted multiple diplomatic missions to resolve this problem, and several initiatives have recently been suggested and undertaken. Some of the recently proposed actions include establishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to expedite the release and handover of fishermen, ensuring that no physical harm or loss of life occurs while both sides are apprehending fishermen, intensifying patrolling cooperation and periodic interaction between the coast guards of two countries, establishing a hotline between the coast guards of two countries to ensure rapid decision making, and releasing vessels in each October. The claims raised by Tamil Nādu fishermen and the government against the Sri Lanka Navy of gunning and murdering Indian fishermen who cross into Sri Lankan seas are said to be one of the most serious threats to Indo-Sri Lanka ties. According to the Tamil Nādu government, the Lankan Navy shot 167 times in

the previous ten years, killing 85 fisherman and injured 180 others. Sri Lanka must handle this issue as soon as possible to avoid a major crisis in the future.

The Sri Lankan government strongly urges that bottom trawling techniques be phased out gradually, while the Indian side pledged that bottom trawling will be phased out gradually. Indian fishing fleets are rapidly expanding, and illegal fishing in the limited sea areas of the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar will not last long due to conflicts between fishermen from both countries, as well as the rapid depletion of fishery resources caused by overexploitation and the destruction of highly productive marine ecosystems and benthic communities because of the use of detrimental and illegal fishing practices such as bottom trawling. To find a lasting solution to this problem, the Indian government is attempting to take initiatives such as moving Indian fishing vessels to international seas off the south coast of the Indian peninsula in order to reap good harvests and enacting buy backs of current trawlers. However, even via diplomatic discussions, it appears that resolving this situation would be difficult, since Tamil Nādu hopes to regain Kachchatheevu Island on a "lease in perpetuity" and grant licenses to Indian fisherman to fish within a set region of Sri Lankan seas.

The northern fishing community of Sri Lanka has spoken out strongly, demanding that the government take strict security measures to protect its maritime border and that the affected fishing community be cared for by developing an urgent action plan to ensure their livelihood through the introduction of additional income sources and alternative fishing activities. Furthermore, they emphasized that the Indian government and the Tamil Nādu state government must take swift and decisive steps to deter Indian fishermen from entering Sri Lankan seas.

### *C. Illegal fishing and livelihood impact*

Fishermen in Northern Sri Lanka have been severely impacted by the 30 years of conflict, and they now see Indian poaching as the greatest danger to their livelihood. Around 98% of relevant parties responded that Indian poaching has severely harmed the lifestyle of coastal fisher folk in the Mannar and Jaffna areas, and it was discovered that 22% of fishers have permanently lost their subsistence due to the destruction of their fishing equipment and vessels by Indian trawlers. Fishers who engage in conventional

fishing tactics might now earn roughly 600 - 800 LKR per day, which is a three to fourfold decrease from their regular earnings. More than 87% of fishermen claimed that they are unable to compete with Indian trawlers because they utilize tiny mechanized or non-mechanized boats and their fishing gear is not as efficient as Indian bottom trawlers. The situation of Sri Lankan fisherman is dire since they cannot withstand the invasion of massive Indian fishing fleets; consequently, fishermen avoid fishing on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday for fear of being damaged by the massive Indian fleet. More than 92% of stakeholders agreed that bottom trawling has had a negative impact on fish populations and species diversity, particularly in the Gulf of Mannar area, by damaging seabed and related benthic ecosystems and creating a large volume of bycatch and discards. The study's findings show that fishers in this region are unable to earn enough revenue to cover their basic requirements through their traditional fishing activities, which have been their primary source of income for millennia. Fishermen in the Jaffna and Mannar regions have expressed concern about their livelihood security because of illegal fishing methods by Indians, which has resulted in irreversible damage to highly productive and diversified fishing grounds.

Furthermore, near the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar areas 73% of stakeholders stated that they are having difficulty obtaining fish for their daily consumption at a reasonable price because most of the fish stocks are taken by Indian fishers, local fishers have limited access to regular fishing, and they lack proper security to carry out their conventional occupation.

## V. CONCLUSION

As a result, this study will examine the consequences of the Indo-Lanka fishing conflict on bilateral ties between India and Sri Lanka. The researcher also believes that if a long-term peaceful solution to this problem is to be found, it should be free of undue political meddling from various entrenched political interests, and that a "multi-Pronged" strategy should be used to address all elements of impediment to a solution.

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## Geopolitical Issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road and Their Effects on Sri Lanka

GPWM Pathinayake

**Abstract**— 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative (MSRI) which is considered as the modern replica of the ancient silk road trade route has become a highly interactive platform engaging most of the nations worldwide. This Chinese initiated trade network extends from China to Europe connecting Asia, Africa, Middle East, and Europe through a series of Chinese lease owned and standalone state ports providing efficient trade routes and economic cooperation across continents. Owing to the diverse interests of engaging states in this platform and the regional actors of the affected areas, MSRI hold significance for an array of globally and regionally addressed issues. One of the most concerned is the geopolitical powerplay surrounding the trade network directly engaging several major powers of the contemporary world order. Such tensions get complex in the Indian Ocean Region because of the crucial MSRI pathway leading through the region and its three choke points which are well known for the competition over geopolitical influence by states such as U.S.A, China, and India. Being in a hub like strategic location in the trade route Sri Lanka is identified as a key point in the continuation of East West trade through Indian Ocean. As a less influential power and a third world country, the island nation's nonaligned policy has been overtaken by the interests of major power actors in the region meanwhile Sri Lanka struggling to balance them. The research study focuses on examining those impacts of geopolitical powerplay in the IOR surrounding MSRI on Sri Lanka which are much significant to the island nations current situation as well.

**Keywords** - Geopolitics, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road, Sri Lanka

### I. INTRODUCTION

Periodically in the history of civilization, there is a trend where existing powerful authorities and the emerging power-holds contest with each other. Though these clashes emerge as a result of various reasons, majority of them are driven upon the basis of influence. By considering geographical boundaries and territorial markings as an instrument of demonstrating one's influence, many kingdoms and states struggled with each other for geopolitical concerns. Geopolitics therefor has played a remarkable role in the determination of power politics

and the influence through geographical measures during the conduct of relations between territorial classifications. In the post Westphalian state centric international system, geopolitics are dominated by the independent state actors who function focusing on executing their influential conducts over other states through a variety of aspects. Development programs are one such method that states use to compete in geopolitical circumstances meanwhile enhancing the influence. By means, establishing development programs across a region by a state will strengthen their influence and allowing them an upper hand in the geopolitical powerplay in particular region. Their growth of geopolitical influence across the states in the region could arouse another state's concern over the influence in the region. These types of situations can ultimately generate security dilemmas and even arms raise effecting the whole region through diverse aspects owing to geopolitical issues surrounding development projects.

One such noteworthy project is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative (MSRI) initiated by China which contains shipping lanes from China to Europe facilitating economic cooperation, policy coordination and, infrastructure linkages throughout member states. Started as a branch of Silk Road Economic Belt in 2013, initiative has three major sea routes namely, Chengdu in China to Myanmar route opening into Indian Ocean, East coast of China to coastal countries of North Africa through strait of Malacca which facilitate East-West linkages and, East coast of China to Northeast Asia. The spinal route of MSRI is considered as the East-West Sea route which leads through the Indian ocean engaging with coastal nations along. The cruciality of this East-West route in MSRI comes under several factors, this facilitates a shipping lane for oil embargos from middle East to Asia, it leads through two choke points of the Indian ocean: strait of Malacca and strait of Bab El Mandeb and, this leads to Mediterranean Sea through Suez Canal providing direct ocean connection from Asia to Europe. Since MSRI shares a predominant influence over the Indian ocean through its regional counterparts: Bangladesh, Djibouti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia,

Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand and, United Arab Emirates, concerns among the existing geopolitical entities rapidly grow in the region. As it is witnessed in the present situation, there is no secret that Indian ocean is home for several geopolitical issues engaging with number of major powers in the world. With China attempting to establish their influence in the region through MSRI escalates the attention of geopolitical powerplay in the region towards the development project.

Often, it's not the powerful influencers who struggle in such competitions, it's the neutral states who have no intention in regional powerplay owing to their enthusiasm for development and neutral foreign policies. Sri Lanka locating in a strategic location of the MSRI is an ideal example for being victimized by this geopolitical syndrome. Henceforth the research study will focus on examining geopolitical issues surrounding the 21<sup>st</sup> century maritime silk road in the Indian ocean, analyzing the ways that Sri Lanka become subjected to those issues and discovering the effects of those geopolitical issues to Sri Lanka. To accomplish those objectives research will continue with a discussion part, result and recommendations section and finally ending with a conclusion.

## II. METHODOLOGY

This study's methodology makes use of secondary sources from a variety of platforms. Scholarly works and articles are regularly acknowledged, as are media reports from knowledgeable journalists. The qualitative technique was utilized to examine the collected data and show the researcher's points of view.

## III. DISCUSSION

### *A. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road and Geopolitics in the Indian Ocean*

Considering the geopolitics of the Indian ocean, United States, India, France, and China can be entitled as the paramount actors who possess the ability to dominate and contest with each other. Among these four, China is an emerging influencer which threatens the status quo and the balance of power which was exercised between US, India, and France. China entered the powerplay as an economic opportunist seeking trade benefits through the region, but later their influence on regional economies and their strategic alliances with states as Pakistan who are having bitter relations with regional giants as India,

China became a top contender in geopolitics of the Indian ocean. This issue is one of the most highlighted areas while discussing about the geopolitics and the MSRI in Indian ocean, owing to the engagement of four nuclear weaponized states in this issue, makes it more crucial for the region and the international.

First focus point of the issue comes under the influence of these major powers on regional middle powers and neutral states. As mentioned earlier China managed to establish well rooted cooperative measures and political influences in most of the Indian ocean states through MSRI and its infrastructure development projects. Pakistan, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Iran are some of the significant shareholders who developed understandings with China through MSRI which directed geopolitical dimensions of India, US, and France. By taking US for an example this situation can be elaborated, whereby US has a challenging relationship with Iran and, they have directly influenced the implementation of economic sanctions on Iran. China building a partnership with Iran through MSRI creates a threat towards US influence in the region because Iran alone can be powerless to overcome US geopolitically, but with China on the other hand Iran has a potentiality of overcoming the US influence in the region. This is much similar with India and France too where they face the same complex situation in various perspectives due to Chinese partnerships with many of the regional states and the spread of their influence through MSRI. (Brewster, 2018)

Second focus point emerges as a combination of geopolitical and economic concerns under geoeconomic perspectives. Identified as an interplay between geopolitics, economics, and investments the geo-economical role played by China was able to challenge the traditional geopolitical role played by US, India, and France. Economic power and stability can alter the political influence of a state (Salamon and Siegfried, 1977), which is why exactly the Chinese pro investment policy through MSRI has generated a dominant hold on Indian ocean. Through the geoeconomic approach China was able to attract many states including development enthusiastic third world nations such as Sri Lanka which also serves as a strategic waypoint in the Indian ocean trade. Due to the economical influence generated through MSRI, regional major powers including India are concerned about their geopolitical influence being overtaken by China.

*B. Sri Lanka under the Geopolitical power play and MSRI in the Indian Ocean*

From the initiation of Chinese president Xi Jin Ping's plans for infrastructure linkages in the continuation of East-West economic cooperation, Sri Lanka was considered as a vital nod of the MSRI. (Karl, 2017) This is owing to the island's hub like location which has the capacity to provide intermediate services to trade ships on the route or to function as a temporary depot for trade goods. The former trade minister, Dr. Bandula Gunawardena expressed his views on export performances of the year 2021 saying that exports are Sri Lanka's best chance of breaking the current account cycle and returning it to a healthy path of economic growth depicting the importance of international trade to Sri Lankan economy. (www.srilankabusiness.com, 2022) With crucial effects to Sri Lankan development, trade connections such as MSRI stand significant in their state economy. In the other hand Sri Lanka following a non-aligned policy shows interest in every opportunity they get to expand their development process. This engages them with three of the geopolitical influencers in the Indian ocean, US, India, and China maintaining strong trade relationships with each of them. As discussed before owing to the MSRI US, India, France, and China are competing to establish their geopolitical influence in the Indian ocean and unlike some other states in the region, Sri Lanka maintaining friendly relations with all these influencers, makes Sri Lanka an ideal ground to practice their geopolitical conducts. By analyzing these conditions clearly there are two major factor which engages Sri Lanka with the geopolitical powerplay around the MSRI namely, the enthusiasm for development and the state policy of non-alignment.

Recent Chinese involvement in Sri Lanka uplifted after Americans started to show hesitations in providing Sri Lankan army the weapons and parts, they needed to continue the war against L.T.T.E in 2006. Whereby using this standoff China started supplying weapons and technical assistance in the eradication of L.T.T.E strengthening the regional influence in the Indian ocean. (Kaplan, 2013) After the victory against L.T.T.E followed the development process which China got the upper hand as one of the major investors owing to the assistance given in the continuation of war and because of strong relations over the time. With the opportunity of establishing a regional lease owned port at Hambantota, China strategically involved Sri Lanka in the MSRI even before they commenced the initiation in 2013. As

discussed before the enthusiasm for development Sri Lanka showed specially after the civil war became a breeding ground for Chinese power which rattled India, since China managed to drop a firm anchor in the backyard of Indian influence. Approaching to more recent circumstances, as China mounted up investments, development aids and even debts years prior to 2021 significantly through MSRI, with the brink of economic crisis and debt conspiracies rising through Sri Lankan public, India used this situation to establish a footprint in Sri Lankan soil. To counter Chinese economic influence and to gain Sri Lanka's trust India implicated their largest bilateral aid program in recent times passing USD 3.5 billion worth aid through the Indian credit line in 2022. (East Asia Forum, 2022) From the general perspective of Sri Lanka, this is a sure comfort factor to stabilize the state in aftermath of the crisis. But considering the geopolitical competition these powers are engaged, Sri Lanka has started its walk in a path which will end up in a two-way junction with one path leading to China and other to India, meaning the Sri Lankan enthusiasm towards development might come with a choice which will both geopolitically concerning for the region and economically concerning for the state.

This condition connects to the policy of non-alignment followed by Sri Lanka which make the state more vulnerable to geopolitical competitions in the region. Best recent example for this situation is the concerns aroused on Chinese expeditionary vessel Yuan Wang 5 and its journey to Hambantota harbor. As Chinese ambassador to Sri Lanka expressed, the scientific and research vessel visiting Hambantota is very natural and normal, also this is not the first time that this kind of vessel visited Sri Lanka. (Gunasekara and Mashal, 2022) Yet to India and even USA, this has become a certain threat to their geopolitical influence in the region, and more closely to India, it has become a security threat through information warfare. More significantly the expeditionary vessel anchored on a Chinese lease owned Hambantota harbor which is a counterpart in MSRI showing the geopolitical issues surrounding MSRI tangling Sri Lanka in complex situations. With the policy of non-alignment on the display Sri Lanka has no ethical and practical foundation to refuse nor pick a side in such circumstances which can create a political instability and breach of its sovereignty even fueling the economic complexities discussed before.

#### IV. RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Research study confirms the link between geopolitical issues in the Indian ocean, MSRI, and Sri Lanka showing focused effects on Sri Lankan politics, security, and economy. As depicted in the discussion section, most of these effects on Sri Lanka are clearly due to the absence of a robust foreign policy and the strong dependency upon the regional geopolitical influencers. Expanding on the foreign policy factor, maintaining friendly relations with every nation, and considering them on equal basis is ideal and beneficial. But in the other hand Sri Lanka should consider about their risks and security issues in terms of a threatening circumstance evolved through a foreign nation. Therefor meanwhile sharing a friendly relationship with every nation, Sri Lanka should consider about giving up nonaligned policy and create a strong alliance with a regional power to ensure their state survival in the brink of a crucial situation. While taking part in such alliance Sri Lanka will have an ultimate option to defend its sovereignty and security in the height of a geopolitical conflict. If Sri Lanka is desperate to follow the policy of non-alignment, there should be a strategic vision which carefully engages with each and every power in the region without arousing each other's hostilities. The dependency factor directly connects with state economy of Sri Lanka and the non-traditional security aspects such as food and energy security. As experiencing presently Sri Lanka heavily depends on India and China to satisfy their daily human demands including food, fuel, and electronic accessories. This gives them the capacity of crippling Sri Lanka with supply blockades and even fulfilling their objectives through persuasions in an edge of a geopolitical competition. Owing to those conditions, Sri Lanka should focus on self-dependent economic system, at least state should be able to satisfy essential needs such as food inside the country.

#### V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, contemporary trends in geopolitics link with economic aspects where economy of a state has developed to a role of power projection. This is overseen by economic approaches towards regions through development initiatives and trade relations which ensure the influence of a state in particular region. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative of China serves as such platform where geopolitics of the Indian ocean storming around it. Being an island nation and a vital nod for transshipment trade, Sri Lanka becomes a natural partner of MSRI and a victim

of geopolitical issues surrounding the initiative. Islands policy of non-alignment and its dependency upon major powers in the region create direct effects on Sri Lankan internal politics, economy and security. A well-structured strategy is needed to counter these effects or alter them to Sri Lankan advantage which will definitely aid in the economic and political resurgence after the politico-economic crisis of the country.

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## **PANEL III**

# **GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS**

## Renewable Energy Sources of Sri Lanka By 2030: UNDPs Challenges and Development Prospect

Upeka Sadharuwan Wijerathna

**Abstract**— Sri Lanka is said to as the gem of the Indian Ocean, and it now has numerous significant urbanization and development initiatives underway. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is one of the UN agencies tasks responsible for the global developing sector. Supporting indigenization globally, serving as a dependable partner and counsellor to nations in the area, and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals are all associated accomplishments of this UNDP. Its goal is to evaluate Sri Lanka's energy industry and achieve fully sustainable electricity generation by 2030. The purpose of this research is to identify the challenges that will need to be overcome to realize these goals, as well as to determine Sri Lanka's future vision within the UNDP and work toward realizing total energy independence for Sri Lanka from fossil fuels by the year 2030. Literature reviews served as the study's main techniques of inquiry. On both quantitative and qualitative sources, the appraisal of current research on current issues, future advancement, and its effect on the system of environmental sustainability will be based. Determine the potential methods and strategies that might be employed to meet the nation's energy demands using renewable resources to strengthen the infrastructure of the nation's environmental sustainability. It is important to develop a hypothesis utilizing techniques like case studies and Annual reports. The observations and information acquired will then demonstrate how, according to a UNDP evaluation of Sri Lanka's electrical market, the country's use of renewable energy will peak by 2030.

**Keywords** - Renewable energy, Sri Lanka, UNDP, modernistic challenges, development prospect.

### I. INTRODUCTION

For economic, social, and environmental sustainability, UNDP has been a special development partner in Sri Lanka since 1967. Hazardous emissions of carbon dioxide, methane,

and other greenhouse gases are rising quickly because of the world's fast growth. Governments are compelled to act as a result, and Sri Lanka has

established several energy goals to be achieved by 2030. Some of these include limiting harmful greenhouse gas emissions, producing 80% of all energy from renewable sources, and cutting industrial energy usage by 10%. In accordance with the UN SDGs, UNDP helps Sri Lanka through imparting renewable energy technologies to Sri Lanka. However, the present troublesome circumstance is that Covid-19's current effects are forcing the economy of all countries to contract. Furthermore, the distribution of tasks will not be achieved solely by government action. All private sectors as well as public participation should be sought for that. This further demonstrates the passing of time since Sri Lanka still has around eight years to realize a sustainable future by the year 2030.

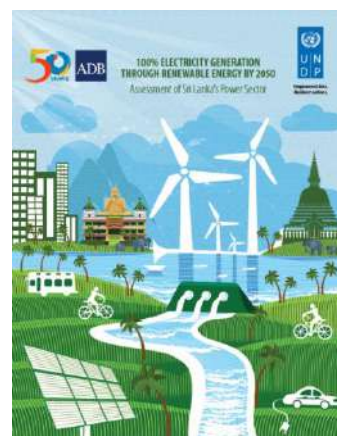


Figure 3: 100% electricity generation through renewable energy by 2050

of Sri Lanka's power industry. The goal of this research is to identify these issues as well as the UNDP's future goals for producing renewable energy to clear the way for Sri Lanka to meet those objectives and achieve energy sustainability. That is, by using this study, Sri Lanka may expand its usage of renewable energy, overcome its current setbacks, and fortify the foundation of its environmental sustainability.

Additionally, poverty and regional imbalances, governance obstacles to growth, such as parliamentary papers and political engagement, energy, and environmental difficulties, etc., may all be cited as major hurdles in the UNDP evaluation

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. *Energy Program Framework*

The government has begun a variety of programs throughout the years to combat poverty, as well as programs to electrify and enhance rural regions' infrastructure. Some of them include initiatives like the Gamata Taakshanaya (Technology to Village), Dahasak Vew (Tank Rehabilitation), and Gemi Diriya (Village Strength). When considering rural energy, the government's major program may be identified as the distribution of power via the grid. But the initiative focused on low-cost coal-fired power plants is the main gap that can be identified here. It is also very difficult to take advantage of the legal and regulatory framework, and the government places very little emphasis on biomass and renewable energy choices. The utilization of conventional energy sources is to blame. As a result, donor funding dominates Sri Lanka's renewable energy schemes. Additionally, Energy Service Delivery (ESD), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the World Bank place a strong emphasis on energy promotion initiatives that involve both home engagement and the commercial sector. Projects like solar home systems (SHS) and small hydropower plants should be implemented, for instance. The reasons why there aren't any precise recommendations to accomplish the goals listed above,

- Rural capacity for electrification initiatives is restricted.
- In part because of escalating technology and application expenses,
- The lack of technology flow into the hamlet because of maintenance performed under licenses,
- Lack of facilities for continuous fuel,
- A shortage of trained labor.

Energy regulations based on biomass, animal power, and other sources should be put into place to promote renewable energy in rural regions. Rural consumers and power providers ought to be allowed to compete on equal footing for that.

Parties supporting rural electrification should also get subsidies, and a framework for those payments should be set up. The current trends involve growing fuelwood and enhancing soil fertility through nitrogen fixation. The government of Sri Lanka has

approved *Gliricidia Sepium* as a plantation crop because of the recent surge in the popularity of fuel wood cultivation in the country. While Sri Lanka's Forest cover stands at 29 percent to date, there is a national effort driven by the Forest Department to increase this cover to 32 percent by 2020. Contributing to this target and towards the promotion of sustainably grown fuelwood, the Sustainable Biomass Energy Project, together with the Forest Department, Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka (RRISL), Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Community-Based Organizations (CBO), Regional Plantation Companies (RPC), and private landowners have established model fuelwood plantations (UNDP, October 2018).

Both biogas and organic fertilizer are produced from cow manure. Outside of the energy system, biogas is utilized to generate power and as a fuel for cooking. To provide energy services for a one-hectare *Gliricidia Sepium* crop with six cows, AED is modelling the contribution of a small household to renewable energy. Projects like the fabrication of effective wood-burning stoves by Nerd Institute should also be developed for the rural regions under ITDG, as well as the design of tiny wind turbines in Sri Lanka and the installation of stoves and chimneys for rural residents under IDEA.

### B. *Limited Emphasis on Energy Access*

Due to the country's present economic downturn, Sri Lanka now needs entirely renewable energy. There are several additional features that stand out as being typical of that strategy. The Mope has identified the main barriers: investment costs, availability of resources, and lack of popularization of marginal uses of renewable energy in Sri Lanka. Renewable energy supplies through wind energy, solar photovoltaic, etc. are not managed by the Government but by the private sector and NGOs. Fuelwood is not even taken into consideration (UNDP, 2007). These are outlined below, and their continued growth will be beneficial to achieving the entire targets for renewable energy.

1. *Appearance of a significant financial need.*  
Renewable energy production, transmission, and distribution have high upfront costs. Due to the government of Ceylon and the banking system's struggles to generate money domestically, there

is an urgent need for international loans and multilateral financial systems.

2. *Limited financial incentives for capacity growth based on renewable energy.*

Low initial cost coal-fired power station designs are more appealing since the beginning cost of renewable energy is comparatively high. It is based on the big unit size and high-power plant load factor. Therefore, a national energy policy is required for the long-term, environmentally responsible growth of renewable energy.

3. *Lack of research and development in the field of renewable energy.*

Due to a lack of local interest and research in renewable energy, the expense of the specialized knowledge and inputs needed for both current and planned projects is sourced outside.

4. *Inadequate customer education and a dearth of affordable financial solutions among banks.*

In Sri Lanka, it has proven impossible to achieve positive outcomes despite the rules governing the usage of solar panels. Due to exorbitant costs, a lack of accessible financing, and a lack of viable business ideas.

C. *Exploring Energy-Based Entrepreneurship*

The poor must be involved in the energy supply process for energy to have a significant role in reducing poverty. In the present renewable energy market, there is a lot of room for grassroots involvement in small-scale energy initiatives. But I've noted several limitations that have an impact.

- Small units are suffering because of ineffective government regulations.
- Ignoring the community at large while using political justifications.
- There are few job prospects associated with large-scale energy generation.
- A lot of items are imported.
- The inability of regional businesses to create items with a market.

The Knowledge, Integration Development Association (IDEA), which works to expand the number of trained employees in the renewable energy

industry, has written publications on the connection between energy and poverty. Additionally, it offers workshops on topics including wind turbines, biogas, fuel wood stoves, and brick kilns. Another initiative to promote jobs in renewable energy, VRB, initiated a project to construct 200 wind turbines to pump water, but the project has since stagnated. It is a result of inactivity and a lack of a facility to handle upkeep and issues in between uses. Energy sector policy makers must overcome the obstacle of developing new green economic prospects. Although there are some measures in place, much more must be done. To reduce reliance on outside inputs, incentives should be created to promote renewable energy at the national level and knowledge skills should be improved in rural areas. To successfully promote a national micro-hydro standard, the Energy Forum should also determine the requirements for micro-hydropower. Projects for generating power from biomass should be developed commercially by experienced teams. "A business plan has been created by a team of professionals that supports the construction of a large-scale, privately run biomass-based energy producing facility in a rural location. Additionally, this project combines features of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) to carry out a CDM project in Sri Lanka for the biomass industry." (UNDP, 2007)" Developed as a market-based mechanism, the CDM will allow the creation of saleable emissions, which are called certified emission reductions (CER) through projects in developing countries. The generated CER are equivalent to the CO<sub>2</sub> that these projects reduce or avoid.

D. *Delivering Sustainable Energy by Changing Climate*

Because Sri Lanka's large reserves of hydro power have already been utilized, the CEB had diversified to thermal power, resulting in a gradual shift in the industry power mix (RAM Report-Sri Lankan Power sector, 2012:4).

Though the Sri Lanka's current carbon footprint is much less than the global value, the country's existing and planned economic developments which in turn 114 The Progress of Sri Lanka's Renewable Energy Sector Developments in Mitigating the GHG Emission raise the demand for power has resulted an increase in the GHG emission. Based on the published data energy sector is the main contributor



to the (65%) GHG emission. Sri Lankan authorities have identified the foreseeable threat in advance and have taken mitigating measures in all the sectors including energy (Ranasinghe, 2012: 290). Especially the policy decision to escalate the NCRE based electricity generation is very impressive and the targets are on par with the targets set by developed countries. However, gaps between the set targets and the current progress in the sector have created many doubts. Thus, the purpose of this study is to evaluate the current phase of development in NCRE based electricity generation and its contribution to the mitigation of GHG emission in Sri Lanka. Under the switch Asia project promoting renewable energy as a driver for sustainable development and mitigation of climate change in Sri Lanka.

1. *Environmental impact,*

- Reduced household firewood consumption of 263 tons per year
- Reduced organic waste of 10 000 tons per year through 12 biogas systems built in hotels, 225 built at the farmer/ household level, and 250 small systems installed in schools.

2. *Climate benefits,*

- Reduced GHG emissions of 2 895 tons CO<sub>2</sub> per year by installing biogas systems
- Created wider awareness among the public as well as in the private sector, financial institutions, and consumers regarding climate change risks through promotion campaigns to increase the biogas technology uptake.

As Sri Lanka's electricity sector is largely dependent on hydro plants, any variability in the monsoon pattern hits the sector hard. Only after the requirements of domestic water consumption and irrigation are met, is permission for power generation from hydro projects granted. Though hydro plants' plant load factor (PLF) in Sri Lanka is in the range of 50 percent, there are concerns about nonavailability of capacity in the future.

### III. RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The environment of Sri Lanka's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is being negatively impacted by the challenges in facilitating the transition of SMEs' energy consumption towards greenhouse gas (GHG) reducing energy sources, according to MOFCOM-UNDP: Trilateral Cooperation on

Renewable Energy in Sri Lanka. This is particularly true as a result of the need for clearer national guidance on National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), as well as a lack of information and support for SMEs to adopt cost effective technologies.

Through testing and demonstrating the possibilities of solar and biogas in the agro-industry sector, the project helps Sri Lanka meet its national targets for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. As a result of the Project's implementation within a South-South Cooperation framework, China and Sri Lanka can use it as a learning opportunity to engage in and collaborate on RET transfer for GHG emission reduction on a global scale.

The project's two-year implementation spans the third quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2021 and includes the demonstration on pilot locations and cross-country knowledge sharing as its two main phases.

•Outcome 1: Demonstrated use of hybrid RET systems for energy savings and GHG emission reduction in small & medium sized agro-industry including farm, agricultural activities, and agro-processing

•Outcome 2: South-South knowledge and experience exchanged

Sri Lanka is extremely vulnerable to climate change, habitat fragmentation, and over-exploitation as one of the 36 biodiversity hotspots. Increased floods and droughts in the last ten years due to changes in seasonal rainfall patterns have had a direct impact on rural livelihoods and health, with chronic kidney disorders on the rise. By strengthening Sri Lanka's ability to respond to the effects of climate change, UNDP is promoting the modernization and reform of environmental management systems. It also explores renewable energy sources and energy-efficient technologies.

Biomass energy, a major source of energy for both homes and businesses, provides about 40% of Sri Lanka's primary energy needs. Being a domestic energy source, it adds to the nation's energy security and gives rural farmers a second source of income. Due to Sri Lanka's economic crisis, it is difficult for both homes and enterprises to find the energy needed for manufacturing. Thus, renewable energy technologies are a viable answer to the problems that many small and medium-sized businesses are currently facing (SMEs).

The Biomass Project Phase II – Biomass Energy 2022 is an initiative of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka. It builds on experiences, best practices, and lessons learned from Phase I. By encouraging the growth of suppliers for clean and contemporary biomass technology in accordance with the energy policy, the project seeks to strengthen rural economies, expand the area covered by forests, raise the standard of living for rural women, and promote sustainable industries and SMEs in the nation.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The study aims to study the relations between Sri Lanka and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as the contribution of UNDP's renewable energy development projects to total energy production in Sri Lanka. The main research question is how do you produce a complete sustainable electricity generation by 2030 through the UNDP assessment of Sri Lanka's energy sector? Sri Lanka needs entirely renewable energy. The government places little emphasis on biomass and renewable energy choices. It is very difficult to take advantage of the legal and regulatory framework. There is room for grassroots involvement in small-scale energy initiatives, but limitations have an impact on exploring energy-based entrepreneurship. Sri Lanka's current carbon footprint is much less than the global value, but its existing and planned economic developments has resulted an increase in the GHG emission. Sri Lankan authorities have identified the foreseeable threat in advance and have taken mitigating measures in all the sectors including energy. The government of Sri Lanka has approved Gliricidia Sepium as a plantation crop because of the recent surge in popularity of fuel wood cultivation. The current trends involve growing fuelwood and enhancing soil fertility through nitrogen fixation. A national energy policy is required for the long-term, environmentally responsible growth of renewable energy.

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#### ABBREVIATIONS

UNDP	United Nations Development Program
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
RE	Renewable Energy
GHG	GREEN HOUSES GAS

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## Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1: Challenges Encountering During the Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka (2021-2022)

SC Wickramarachchi

**Abstract**— The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the UN are 17 objectives that countries have committed to achieving by 2030. The United Nations established 2015 sustainable Goal 1, one of the 17 sustainable developments goal. The First goal is to end Poverty in all forms. SDG 1 focuses on services that people rely on and social policy that either encourages or avoids poverty, rather than only those who are in poverty. Due to the current economic crisis in Sri Lanka, there have been some difficulties in achieving that goal. That is, the present situation in Sri Lanka indicates that challenges to this include unemployment, Political unrest, economic instability, food shortages, inflation, and education disruption. However, despite these difficulties, these sustainable development goals must be achieved by 2030.

The research will be based on both qualitative collected from both primary and secondary data collection and research follows the case study method by analyzing the impact of an economic crisis in Sri Lanka, and the challenges Sri Lanka faces in achieving no poverty. The research identified the economic crisis as the main challenge to achieving this goal. The Easter Sunday attack and Covid 19 pandemic both had an impact on this. Accordingly, the no-poverty goal has become difficult for the government of Sri Lanka as well as other organizations and institutions to achieve. This research identified what we can do to overcome challenges imposed by the economic crisis and achieve this by 2030.

**Keywords**- Economic Crisis, Poverty, Sustainable Development Goals

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals are 17 goals introduced by the United Nations in 2015 and currently, many countries in the world are working to achieve these goals by 2030. The Millennium Goals were introduced by the United Nations before the Sustainable Development Goals. Some of those goals failed and then the Sustainable Development goals were introduced. Achieving the balance between environmental, economic, and socio-political sustainability is the aim of this. All nations should be able to provide for their necessities in terms of jobs, food, energy water, and sanitization. Reducing pollution, poverty, and unemployment can quickly accomplish this. Sri Lanka ranked 87th out of 165 countries in the Sustainable Development Goal Index 2021, Challenges to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda remain. (Sri Lanka.: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, 2022)

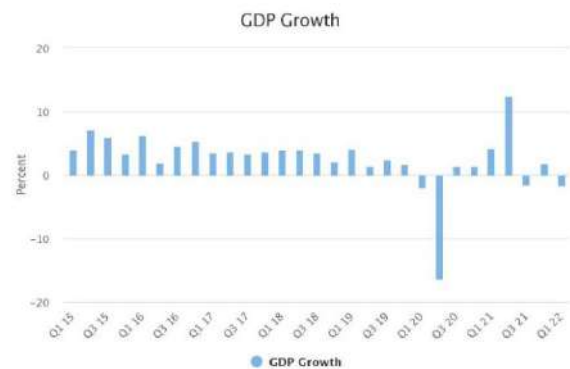


Figure 4: - Over the past two decades, China and Sri Lanka have greatly developed and deepened their economic ties, with China operating as Sri Lanka's largest lender

The first of those goals is to eradicate poverty. The goal has 7 targets and 13 indicators. Sri Lanka is also a country that is working to achieve these goals. In 2016, the Sustainable Development Division was established within Sri Lanka's Ministry of Sustainable Development and wildlife. But due to the economic crisis in the period 2021 – 2022, those activities have been interrupted. Sri Lanka's score in the 2020 UNDP Human Development Index drops by 13.9 percent to

0.673 when inequalities are considered (Sri Lanka.: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, 2022). At present, factors such as unemployment, inflation, food shortages, and disruption of education can be cited as an obstacle to achieving these goals. The main reasons for these factors were the civil war, the Covid epidemic, etc. Eliminating poverty in Sri Lanka by 2030 has become a challenge amid these obstacles. A terrible economic crisis has people trapped. Therefore, the most suitable and effective long-term measures should be taken.

## II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research will problematize those problematic areas such as reasons for the current economic crisis, the importance of Sustainable development goal 1, Challenges during the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, and how to solve those problems and achieve the no-poverty goal.

This research applied 'Qualitative Research methodology. Information obtained for this was obtained through secondary data such as websites, books, Journals, government records, and Articles. Content data analysis was used to analyze the information. To answer the above problem statement, this study identified the economic crisis as the main challenge to achieving SDG 1 goal. The Easter Sunday attack and Covid 19 pandemic both had an impact on this. Accordingly, the no-poverty goal has become difficult for the government of Sri Lanka as well as other organizations and institutions to achieve. This research identified what we can do to overcome challenges imposed by the economic crisis and achieve this by 2030. In view, the current economic crisis also proves how challenging this is to achieve, and therefore the analysis of this research aim to:

- To study what it means by no poverty Goal?
- To investigate challenges encountered due to the economic crisis in Sri Lanka.
- To analyze the possible way out which can be used to end poverty in Sri Lanka.

## III. DISCUSSION

### A. *Sri Lanka Economic Crisis*

A part of the history of Sri Lanka's economic development can be stated as follows. According to the book *The Sri Lankan Economy charting a new course*.

"Sri Lanka's overall economic performance has been relatively strong but economic growth has been

episodic, reflecting the impact of an array of domestic factors and international conditions. The period following the economic Liberalization reforms initiated in 1977 saw moderately high but volatile economic growth. Economic growth dipped in the early years of the civil conflict before recovering in the early 1990s. Sri Lanka was little affected by the 1997–1998 Asian financial crisis but was adversely affected by the surge in world oil and food prices during 2007–2008 and the global financial crisis that followed. Despite these external shocks and the intensification of the civil war in its final stages, the economy expanded by an annual average rate of 6.1% during the second half of that decade. During the 3 years immediately following the end of the civil conflict, the country's economy experienced one of its strongest periods of growth during the entire post-independence period. In the last 3 years, however, the growth has weakened significantly due to the global economic slowdown." (Athukorala, Ginting, Hill and Kumar, 2017)

The research has found that, historically, causes such as civil war, terrorist activities, and youth insurrection negatively impact on Sri Lankan economy, and the huge debt burden, mismanagement of the economy, and corruption are the recent causes behind it. In either case, the covid 19 pandemic outbreak was the most recent reason for the economic problem to become a crisis. Due to the Easter Sunday attack and covid pandemic, the number of tourists in Sri Lanka decreased. The tourism industry is one of the most profitable industries in Sri Lanka. Tourists are also important for Sri Lankans' foreign exchange, but due to these reasons, problems arose in the tourism industry as well. It had a significant impact on Sri Lanka's economy. The covid 19 pandemic negatively affected several industries. Tax reductions also be a reason for this economic crisis. The other reason is the external debt of Sri Lanka.

The ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka has had a detrimental impact on living conditions and is predicted to significantly worsen poverty. In 2017, PPP, 13.8 percent of Sri Lanka's population was estimated to be living on less than \$3.65 a day, and more recent preliminary estimates suggested that by 2019, that percentage may have decreased to 11.3 percent. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, many people lost their jobs. Simulations show that poverty rose to 12.7% of the population in 2020, meaning that about



300,000 people. (Sources: WDI for GDP, national statistical offices for national poverty)

#### *B. Sustainable Development Goal 1*

One of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) created by the UN in 2015 aims for the eradication of all forms of poverty. This goal is also known as Global Goal 1 or SDG 1. No Poverty is the phrase used officially. The goal has 7 targets and 13 indicators.

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services, including microfinance

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters

1. A Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

1. B Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional, and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions. (Source: [UN Sustainable Development](#))

#### *C. Challenges encountered due to the economic crisis in Sri Lanka.*

Due to the current situation, Sri Lanka faces a lot of challenges to achieve this goal.

#### 1. Unemployment

Sri Lanka's unemployment rate for 2021 was 5.40%, a 0.48% decline from 2020. Sri Lanka's unemployment rate for 2020 was 5.88%, a 1.53% increase from 2019. With this economic crisis, many employed people have lost their jobs, and those who are looking for new jobs have suffered little loss of employment opportunities.

#### 2. Food shortage

Currently, we are facing a global food crisis. Also, the fertilizer crisis in Sri Lanka caused this food shortage due to the dollar crisis. Currently, there is an increase in malnourished children.

#### 3. Political unrest

Due to the political crisis in Sri Lanka, there have been some difficulties in taking the necessary measures to achieve sustainable development goals. Due to this, problems have arisen in maintaining the goals that were successfully achieved before the economic crisis and in achieving the goals that were not done.

#### 4. Education disruption.

Due to the fuel crisis caused by the Covid-19 epidemic and the economic crisis in Sri Lanka the continuity of preschools, schools, universities, and other educational institutions in Sri Lanka was hindered. Although the educational activities were conducted through the online system, it was not very successful. Also, due to the economic crisis, students in Sri Lanka have financial difficulties to continue their education.

#### 5. Inflation

Due to inflationary conditions in Sri Lanka, it has become difficult to achieve the goal of poverty eradication in Sri Lanka. Over the past 61 years, Sri Lanka's consumer price inflation rate has fluctuated between -1.5% and 26.1%. A 7.0% inflation rate was calculated for 2021. Inflation averaged 8.3% yearly during the observation period from 1960 to 2021. Price inflation was 11,592.94% overall. At the start of 2022, an item that cost 100 rupees in 1960 would cost 11,692.94 rupees. (*Inflation rates in Sri Lanka*)

### IV. RESULTS

In this research results indicate that unemployment, inflation, political unrest, food shortages, and disruption of education can be cited as an obstacle to achieving these goals. Due to the collapse of the economy of the middle class in the face of the economic crisis, there have been obstacles in achieving this goal of eliminating poverty. Before the

economic crisis, some programs were made to uplift the economy of the poor people, but after the economic crisis, i.e. after the year 2021, new programs have to be started to achieve this goal. For that, the following recommendations have been suggested.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The research has identified several ways in which such challenges posed to the no-poverty goal could be countered. For example;

- If the state wants to ensure its integrity while developing economics, it should reduce the foreign influence inside the country.
- Trying to obtain support and assistance, especially from an international organization. Examples; Asian Bank, World Bank, International Monetary Found
- In the future, in obtaining loan assistance, when entering into agreements for that purpose, do not enter into agreements that are detrimental to Sri Lanka.
- Use of proper mechanisms to control the currency reserves of the country.
- Engaging the youth community in raising the country's economy and working to instill confidence in them about the future of Sri Lanka.
- Dealing with the country's economic developments through cooperation.
- Study strategically in raising the economic activities of the country.
- Working to eradicate poverty and promote education at the family level.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The research identified the economic crisis as the main challenge to achieving SDG 1 goal. The Easter Sunday attack and Covid 19 pandemic both had an impact on this. Accordingly, the no-poverty goal has become difficult for the government of Sri Lanka as well as other organizations and institutions to achieve. This research identified what we can do to overcome challenges imposed by the economic crisis and achieve this by 2030. Because of the current economic crisis, also proves how challenging this is to achieve.

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## SINO – Lanka Economic Relations; Examining the Impacts on Sri Lanka

IA Dewage

**Abstract** - China is the second-largest importer of products in the world and has the fastest-growing consumer market. China has grown to be a significant partner of Sri Lanka since the two countries established diplomatic ties in the 1950s, even though historical relationships between Sri Lanka and China date back over about 20 centuries based on shared religious and cultural values. Sri Lanka is a significant nation on the String of Pearls, a strategic project by China in the Indian Ocean known as the Maritime Silk Road and a component of a larger development plan called One Belt, One Road. As a significant donor of aid, loans, and technical assistance, China has also supported number of major infrastructure development projects in Sri Lanka. Such Chinese contributions will be beneficial to Sri Lanka's future economic growth in several ways. However, the significant foreign debts taken out for infrastructure projects are one of the causes of the current economic crisis. These projects were backed by the outbreak of covid 19 pandemic and failed to outcome the benefits as economically planned. Thus, it struggled to prove successful, it became a subject of criticism and Sri Lanka was left with mounting debts. This research aims to critically analyse how China developed its economy and how it influenced Sri Lanka's economy. The research will also focus on opportunities and challenges for Sino-Lanka economic relations and causes of Sri Lanka's worst financial crisis since independence in 1948 due to Chinese debt trap diplomacy.

**Keywords** - China, Maritime Silk Road, debt-trap diplomacy, Belt and Road Initiative

### I. INTRODUCTION

Nearly forty years ago, before China began to implement economic reforms and trade liberalization, the country-maintained policies that kept the country's economy mostly undeveloped, stagnant, centralized, and ineffective. Since introducing free-market reforms and opening to foreign investment and trade in 1979, China's economy has been among the fastest growing economies in the world. Through several high-profile initiatives, including "Made in China 2025," a plan to

upgrade and modernize China's manufacturing in 10 key sectors with significant government assistance to make China a major player globally in these sectors, the Chinese government has made innovation a main focus in its economic planning. Most economists believe that there are two key causes to credit for much of China's rapid economic growth. They are large scale capital investment and rapid productivity growth.

Productivity improvements have also been a significant contributor to China's rapid economic growth. The reallocation of resources to more productive uses, particularly in industries like agriculture, trade, and services that were previously regulated by the central government, was largely responsible for the productivity gains. According to the World Bank, China's economy went from being poor to low-middle income in 1997, and then from there to upper middle income in 2010. It intends to accomplish this in large part by promoting innovation as a significant driver of future economic growth. The expansion of innovation in China, according to skeptics, will be challenging to achieve, especially if it is heavily state-driven and imposes new limits on overseas firms. However, the Chinese government predicts that China can cross the high-income state by 2025.

Though the United States continues to be Sri Lanka's largest exporting trade partner, China is considered as the sixth-largest export destination, which in fact is more significant for the islands nation's economy. In recent years, the two nations' political and economic links have become stronger, leading to the establishment of diplomatic ties. The Sino-Lanka Joint Commission for Economic and Trade Cooperation combined the Sino-Lanka Joint Trade Committee and Sino-Lanka Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee that were signed economic agreements in 1982. Eight bilateral agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed in 2007 on the golden jubilee celebrations of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and the Sri Lanka-China Business Cooperation Council was established in 1994. Parallel to other nations' trade relations with China, Sri Lanka's trade growth was fuelled by a significant inflow of imports from China, which led to

a rising trade deficit between the two nations. The expansion of Chinese imports into Sri Lanka is a relatively new phenomena that served as the foundation for the development of relations between the two countries. As Chinese imports continue to climb, China's influence and economic links in Sri Lanka expanded.

However, particularly since the early 2000s, commentators in India and the US have voiced concerns that China's alliances with nations like Sri Lanka might be intended to establish a "string of pearls" of military installations that would encompass India and enhance China's global influence.

China has emerged as Sri Lanka's primary supply of textile and apparel raw materials over time. During the past ten years, Chinese investments have been just as important to Sri Lanka's economic growth as Chinese lending has been. China was the biggest foreign investor in Sri Lanka between 2010 and 2020. Two of the major investments are the Colombo Port City project and the Hambantota port. Most importantly, over the past 15 years, China has been Sri Lanka's second-largest foreign lender in terms of public debt. Chinese loans were used to support a number of significant infrastructure development projects, including the

Colombo-Katunayake expressway, the Hambantota port; and the second international airport of the nation, Mattala Airport. This in fact is a well-studied phenomena that has been used to support arguments for debt-trap diplomacy. Sharp criticism has been directed at China's infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka, especially the Hambantota port, which Beijing took over on a 99-year lease as a debt exchange.

For many states in the region, the BRI has become a significant source of investment and infrastructural growth. Recently, fears have surfaced that Chinese loans via the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) could bind participating nations by overloading them with so much debt that they cede their sovereign power in exchange for China's use of their infrastructure or land. This strategy has been referred to as "China's debt trap diplomacy" by commentators.

However, eventually Sri Lanka has finally been trapped by China's debt-trap diplomacy and currently facing a deadly economic crisis.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. *Early Phase of Economic Relations*

Early in the 1950s, China began to collaborate economically and commercially with Sri Lanka. For instance, economic cooperation between the two countries commenced in 1952, four years after Ceylon gained independence from the

British Rule when Sir John Kotelawala was the Prime Minister of Ceylon and Mr. Zhou Enlai was the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China. In 1952, the two-commodity trade agreement, the well-known Rubber Rice Pact was signed and that was the cornerstone of Sino Lanka economic relations. It is important considering at the time, the two nations did not have diplomatic ties, and the United States and its allies sanctioned China economically. With such a promising start, it is understandable why China and Sri Lanka have enjoyed 60 years of largely successful economic collaboration. However, the significant RRP brought many benefits to Sri Lanka and The Rubber Rice Pact was renewed in 1958 and was extended to cover coconut and coal. In addition, the diplomatic ties between the two nations were further strengthened in 1963 with the visit of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike to China in 1963 which also boosted bilateral economic cooperation. During Mrs.

Bandaranaike's first term of office from 1960 to 1965, trade and maritime ties expanded between the two countries, with the Chinese Government providing several grants and loans to meet the development needs of Sri Lanka.

### B. *Trade*

The strategic location of Sri Lanka has been a key element in its interactions with other nations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and the rest of the world. In fact, Sri Lanka is located between China's "String of Pearls" and the oil shipping route (a chain of strategic maritime centres which stretches from China to the Middle East via Southeast and South Asia).

The Rubber-Rice Pact, which was signed by Sri Lanka and China several years before official diplomatic ties were established, marked the beginning of modern trading relations between the two countries. China and Sri Lanka have a long history of close relations extending back many centuries. Strong economic ties along the Maritime Silk Route and extensive cultural coexistence fostered to strengthen ties between the two countries.



Sri Lanka's main exports to China include non-knitted goods, knitted or crochet clothing, coffee and tea, plant fibre and footwear products. Sri Lanka's main imports from China include mechanical and electrical products, machinery and equipment, cotton, iron and steel. Among the top ten categories of imports, China's electromechanical products, textiles, furniture, footwear and ceramic ware retain the dominant position. China's exports of transport 61 equipment, chemicals, optical instruments and metal products are facing competition from India, Japan, Europe and the United States as well as other developed countries.

### *C. Infrastructure Projects*

Significant economic, political, religious, cultural, and social relationships have been established between the two countries with no doubt. So far, China has helped Sri Lanka with several infrastructure development projects in connection with the Belt and Road Initiative that the Chinese government has adopted.

China's private enterprises make investments throughout a range of industries, including hotels, travel, agriculture, fishing, furniture, textiles, storage, and logistics. Numerous large infrastructure development projects were funded by Chinese loans, including Hambantota Port, which is the 2nd largest after the port of Colombo, Colombo International Financial City (CIFC), Mattala International Airport, the second international airport of the nation, Colombo-Katunayake Expressway and Narocholai Coal Power Plant etc.

All these initiatives fall within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is regarded as a significant foreign policy plan to connect China with the developing globe. In addition, the Port city is considered the largest FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) project in Sri Lanka to date.

### *D. Opportunities for Sino Lanka economic Relations*

If infrastructural projects were launched as economically planned, they would surely result in several economic advantages. Such well initiated infrastructural projects will prosper Sri Lanka's domestic economy and will enable Sri Lanka to attract many Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). China provides the necessary financial support or project requirements as well.

In addition to being one of the most significant development goals, the rise in public well-being also serves as a catalyst for sustainable development. In this sense, the public service system, which encompasses housing, healthcare, employment, and education, as well as culture and sports, can be greatly enhanced.

Another significant prospect fostered by Sino-Lanka economic cooperation is the enhancement of the ecological environment, including green production, green living, and low carbon emission.

Thus, these connections will expand Sri Lanka's socioeconomic development as a small developing nation by opening numerous opportunities in key areas like employment generation, regional development, foreign exchange earnings, the promotion of private investments, income distribution, technological advancements, and social well-being.

### *E. Challenges for Sino Lanka economic relations*

As much as Sino-Lanka economic ties have prospered the economy of Sri Lanka certain challenges such as continuity of policy, inability of repayment and geopolitical disturbance etc could be seen as well.

The shift in Sri Lanka's government has had an impact on bilateral economic cooperation, sometimes negatively. A formal contract between the governments of China and Sri Lanka is the foundation for the Colombo Port City project, which must be carried out in compliance with the contract. Early in March 2015, the new Sri Lankan government, citing "a lack of relevant examination and approval procedures" as well as "no proper environmental assessment," suspended almost all significant projects that were in the process, including the port city. Once again receiving approval from Sri Lanka, the port city was given the approval to resume construction a year later.

Despite having a strong economy that has made it the best performer in South Asia for a while, Sri Lanka is currently experiencing a financial crisis. There are significant Chinese borrowings on financially unproductive projects in Sri Lanka and many other countries. A fine example is the long-inactive Mattala Airport, which was built adjacent to a wildlife sanctuary. China has also developed this auxiliary infrastructure for long-term civil-military use to aid its 99-year leased Hambantota port. One of Sri Lanka's most pressing problems right now is its enormous

foreign debt burden. Hence, Sri Lanka's foreign reserves are declining because of unprofitable development projects funded by Chinese loans, which is causing a serious issue.

India, the largest nation in South Asia, continues to be cautious of any nation's attempts to leave a significant footprint in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. According to some Indian strategic analysts, China's investments in Sri Lanka, especially in the ports of Colombo and Hambantota will partially alter the region's strategic picture. The basic idea is that China, and particularly the Chinese navy, to use ports in the Indian Ocean, such as Gwadar in Pakistan, to confine India. If this theory is true, then the expansion of the Colombo Port with Chinese companies' assistance will eventually endanger India's national interests and have an impact on India's own geopolitical position.

### III. RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the past two decades, China and Sri Lanka have greatly developed and deepened their economic ties, with China operating as Sri Lanka's largest lender.

For post-Tsunami and post-conflict economic rebuilding and development initiatives, economic partnerships involving loans and investments in the area of infrastructure development have been significantly important to Sri Lanka as well. Economic ties between China and Sri Lanka were already improving before the BRI was implemented and was further strengthened after the implementation of BRI. These economic connections have created both opportunities and challenges for Sri Lanka with the growing and concentrated Chinese projects. Two major concerns pertaining to Sino-Lanka economic ties can be stated as;

1. Various Chinese projects in Sri Lanka generally lack economic sustainability as productive economic activities have not been well planned with the infrastructural investment.
2. Loans from China are thought to have a negative impact on Sri Lanka's external debt burden.

Thus, rather to criticize and halt the connections with China, Sri Lanka could make use of its economic ties with China to overcome the current economic crisis. Several recommendations and steps such as restructuring of existing loans could be carried out in order to overcome the crisis. In addition, Sri Lanka

should properly negotiate to develop plans to make prime projects like Hambantota Port and Port City as economically viable projects.

### IV. CONCLUSION

The partnership between China and Sri Lanka, which was first developed along the historic Silk Road, has endured, and their ties have recently been closer than ever. Political, economic, social, educational, and cultural spheres are just a few out of the many domains where bilateral connections have grown into interdisciplinary strategic relationships. Unquestionably, this has ushered in the beginning of fresh, promising diplomatic ties between the two nations.

China has always been a helping hand to Sri Lanka and a close partner not only in terms of economic relations but also in terms of political ties and defence. If the opportunities are properly grasped, Sri Lanka can seek to implement many development programs that have objectives such as, economic prosperity, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

However, China is the largest nation in Asia. As a result, building links with China will aid Sri Lanka's economy in achieving its socioeconomic goals. Sri Lanka, a small nation, should focus on such a massive initiative if Sri Lanka is ever to prosper its domestic economic growth. Thus, the key challenge will be effective implementation.

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## The Implications of Ukraine Crisis on The Regional Economies: A Case Study on South Asia

DMTSU Dasanayaka

**Abstract-** *the Russo-Ukrainian War began by reviving the geopolitical currents of the Cold War era in late 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to drastic changes in the geopolitics, geo-economics, and geo-social patterns of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The crisis is expected to be liable to the creation of global economic crisis, warning on long-term inflations and stagflations around the globe victimizing nations in every region rather than Europe and Russia, which is estimated to be escalated into a global humanitarian crisis. Despite the distant geographical location of the region from Russia and Ukraine, the effects of the Ukraine-Crisis on the region are obviously not mild, the region is the first region to collapse due to the economic meltdown resulted from Ukraine crisis. Several ideologies and narratives are built upon the impacts of the Ukraine Crisis on the South Asian economies, but there is a significant lack of research and academic compositions relating to the subject matter. Accordingly, the research is objected to explore and analyse the negative and positive, if any, impacts of the Ukraine Crisis on the regional economies by investigating the economies of South Asia and the vulnerabilities of the South Asian economies, and finally, to provide an academic composition regarding the subject area which provide answers to the questions concerning on the impact of the Ukraine crisis and the vulnerabilities of the South Asian economies.*

**Keywords-** *Ukraine-Crisis, South Asia, economy, inflation, economic policy*

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Ukraine crisis is the most significant development in the international system of the 21<sup>st</sup> century after the end of the Cold war which baffled the international theorists, revealing that no grand theory could explain the Ukraine crisis like the surprise ending of the Cold war. Despite the significance of the crisis in international relations due to its impact on the revivification of the Cold-war international system of late 20<sup>th</sup> century in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the triggering time of the event magnified its impacts. The invasion of Ukraine took place on 24 February of 2022 following Covid 19

global pandemic when the world has just begun to recover from its effects and during a period where the global economies were experiencing massive debt crisis due to the increase of interest rates. The international community was economically exhausted due to the unexpected expenditures in the health sectors and exploiting resources on relating errands. Significantly, the pandemic caused massive global economic slowdown and drainage of reserves from increasing deaths, unemployment, internal and external lockdowns, travel and social restrictions, and reduction of transactions among nations and remittance inflow. The impacts of Ukraine war have posed a major threat to global economic growth and recovery by creating supply chain disruptions, energy crisis, food shortages, higher inflations and stagflations, public unrest and in worst scenario, warns on global economic depression. The gravity of the impacts of the war increases relative to the other wars in the past decades due to the economic power of the two nations, significantly due to their combined large share in exporting strategic resources in the global markets, and severe western sanctions on Russian economy interrupting global supply chains.

Russia is the second largest crude petroleum exporter in the world, apart from that Russia's primary exports composed of rude petroleum, refined petroleum, petroleum gas, gold etc. It is estimated that the "stockpiles of coal in Russia are the largest in the world; the energy potential of the coal industry is much higher than the oil industry" adventure. This demonstrates the impressive share owns by Russia in global energy as a supplier. Considering the top exports of Ukraine, they comprised mainly of food products such as seed-oils, corn, and wheat. Ukraine is the fifth largest wheat exporter of wheat, of which 55 per cent of wheat goes to Asia and 40 per cent to Africa. Russia and Ukraine together account for a quarter of global grain trade and one third of global wheat and barley exports. In South Asian context, Bangladesh and Pakistan are two nations who heavily depend on Russian and Ukrainian wheat. According to estimates Bangladesh obtain half of its wheat from

Russia and Ukraine while 39 per cent of wheat imports to Pakistan come from Ukraine. (Osama R, 2022)

Disruptions in supply of these resources are fatal to the global economy, especially fuel shortages and energy crisis, due to which global trade is directly, affected from increasing transportation costs because of higher fuel prices. For example, a vast majority of global trade activities are powered by fuel in terms of transportation, often by massive cargo ships which consumes large amount of fuel, because of higher fuel prices the transportation cost increases which is in return added to the cost of raw materials by the firms and businesses and thereby increase commodity prices adding burden upon the consumers.

Because of such hurdles the predictions of global economic growth have descended while global inflation escalates. On July 26, 2022, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) updated its World Economic Outlook (WEO) projections. The growth forecasts for 2022 and 2023 are downgraded from its April 2022 predictions to 3.2% and 2.9%, respectively, a decrease of 0.4 and 0.7 percentage points. Moreover, most major advanced economies' growth projections for 2022–2023 are negative and the economic growth is downgraded from 2.5 per cent in 2022 to 1.4 per cent in 2023, which would be 0.8 and 1.0 percentage points less than what the April 2022 WEO predicted, respectively.

In terms of global inflation, the estimation demonstrated a rise from 6.9 per cent in the April 2022 World Economic Outlook to 8.3 per cent in 2022. Inflation in emerging and developing countries is projected to reach 10% in 2022 while for advanced economies; it is expected to reach 6.3 per cent from 4.8 per cent. Besides, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' claims, "Russia's war on Ukraine was mostly responsible for the 17.1% rise in the price of wheat, barley, corn and other grains" And thus the globe is threatened with a serious humanitarian crisis since wheat, cereals and rice count for 40 per cent of calories consumed globally. (Osama R, 2022)

Due to the complexities in the international system, either an introduction of a new element or an alteration or conclusion of existing element is enough to transform the entire system while affecting every actor in the international system. The

economic crisis in South Asia is an epitome to confirm the interdependency in the international system; the region is recognized to be one of the first regions to collapse against the impact of the pandemic followed by Ukraine war. Despite the geographical distance, economic shocks exerted from the Ukraine war has reached the region, directly and indirectly, crippling its economic recovery and resulted a devastating socio-political and economic crisis. The economic diversity of the region due to the inclusion of states with various economic statuses as powerful, emerging, and healthy and vulnerable economies further amplifies the significance of the region, and represent, to a certain extent, the global economic grading. Sri Lanka, an island nation of South Asia, is regarded as the first domino to fall against the impacts of Covid 19 pandemic followed by Ukraine crisis, further South Asian nations as Pakistan and Nepal are predicted to go in Sri Lankan way. The inefficient and fragile economic policies, reliance on minimum industries and political corruption are recognized as the primary reasons which led the region to collapse even from the initial cross boarder economic shock waves from the Ukraine crisis. All these elements increase the significance of the region, which provides diverse and unique circumstances to investigate the economic effects of Ukraine crisis on regional economies.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. *South Asian Scenario*

South Asia, a sub region of Asia, consists of seven countries; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, and regarded as one of the most diverse and disintegrated regions of the world. Moreover, the region hosts around two billion people and thus regarded as the most affected region in Asia during the Covid 19 pandemic. Nevertheless, prior to Russo-Ukraine conflict the region was successfully recovering from the impacts of the pandemic as evident through the forecast of IMF's October 2021. According to the projections in the South Asian emerging economies were expected to grow faster than the previous projections. India Bangladesh and Maldives were expected to grow by 9.5 per cent, 6.5 per cent and 13.2 per cent, respectively, while Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka were anticipated to a slow growth by 4.4 per cent, 4.2 per cent and 3.3 per cent respectively. (International Monetary Fund, 2021) Accordingly it proves that Russia-Ukraine conflict has major role



in the economic meltdown of the region than expected.

Nonetheless, depending on the economic connections with Russia and Ukraine, as well as the growth rate and financial market connections with the rest of the world, the impact on specific South Asian nations may also differ. Therefore, it is important to comprehend the magnitude of the economic relations of the region with Russia and Ukraine.

When analysing the economic transactions between the region and Ukraine and Russia, it is apparent that South Asia's reliance on Ukraine and Russia for economic gains is much greater compared to the countries at war. Russia and Ukraine are net importers of several top exporters of the region, which earn the region with foreign reserves, and moreover the region is depending on imports from the two countries to secure energy and food security.

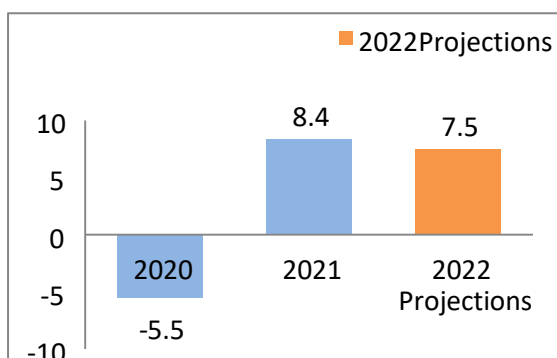


Figure 5: Chart 1- Annual Real GDP growth of South Asia  
Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO) April 2022

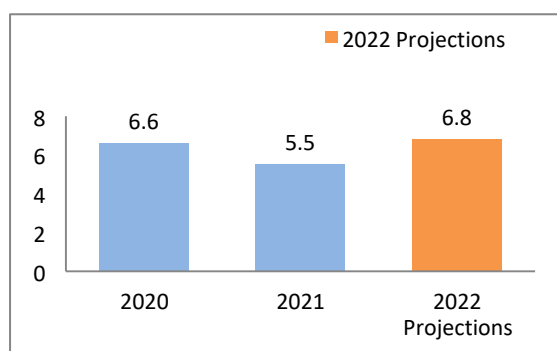


Figure 6: Chart 2- Annual Inflation Rates of South Asia  
Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO) April 2022

Russia's top exports to the region includes refined petroleum, sunflower seed-oil and other seed oils, wheat, and minerals, while Ukraine exports to the region consist of sunflower and other seed oils. On the other hand Russia and Ukraine provide a

massive market for South Asian exports and considered as major foreign markets for minor South Asian economies. For instance, Russia imports 20 per cent of Sri Lanka tea. (Weerasinghe & Wignaraja, 2022) Russia and Ukraine are destinations for top regional exports such as tea; from Nepal and Sri Lanka, apparels; from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and grapes; from Afghanistan. Moreover, Russia also provides top market for citrus and coffee of Pakistan and Nepal, respectively.

As a consequent of disruptions in supply chains of the above-mentioned exports and import to and from the region would undoubtedly have a massive direct impact on the regional economies, especially on the minor economies by cutting down major income sources to region as well as jeopardizing the food and energy security of the region. Thus, as a result, higher commodity prices, food shortages, fuel shortages, blackouts, government restrictions of electricity consumption could be witnessed throughout the region. On July 07, 2022 Bangladeshi prime minister, Sheikh Hasina claimed that "prices have gone up to such extent that it is now become difficult to keep the power plants running with the gas we have in stock" and Bangladesh announced of inability in purchasing LNG (liquid natural gas) in international market as the Bangladeshi Taka has fallen 10%. Moreover, her government has decided to shut down every diesel fired power plant to minimize the depletion of foreign exchange reserves (Faisal Mahumud, 2022). Afghanistan provides the worst-case scenario in terms of food crisis in the region. According to World Food Programme (WFP), Afghanistan, one of the five biggest hunger spots, is constantly warned of an approaching famine even before the Ukraine crisis. Unlike other South Asian countries, bread being the staple food of Afghans, distractions in the supply chains of wheat into the country would further intensify the food insecurity of the state.

Evidently, War in Ukraine took place during the worst period of Afghanistan pushing the country from starvation to famine. Moreover, the Himalayan kingdom, Nepal is also recorded of extending restrictions on importing of 10 luxury goods including automobile, mobile phones, liquor, and motorcycle while Nepali government decided to lift ban on six banned goods including diamonds, cards, and tobacco to counter its dwindling foreign exchange reserves (Kathmandu post, 2022).

The following table provides data on transactions of South Asia with Russia and Ukraine in 2020.

Partner	Total worth of imports Thousand USD	Top import	Worth Thousand USD	Import share	Total worth of exports Thousand USD	Top export	Worth Thousand USD	Export share
Russia	6,786,716	Fuel	2,147,412	31.64%	2,879,790	Chemical	820,750	27.5%
Ukraine	2,558,456	Food Products	1,963,831	76.76%	541,721	Chemicals	197,902	36%

*Table 1: South Asia's transactions with Russia and Ukraine in 2020*

*Source: Based on data from World Integrated Trade Solutions on transactions of 2020*

The region's struggle with numerous crises is estimated force the region into a poly-crisis situation, which happens due the interaction of multiple crisis resulting a worse situation than the entire catastrophe (TLRD global news, 2022).

Apart from direct trade relations, remittance and tourism are other primary sectors through which several South Asian economies are affected. Overseas worker's remittance and tourism play a significant role in the economies of the region which was badly ruined by the pandemic which resulted in reduction of remittance inflow. With the decline of the pandemic both the sectors managed to revive, but the recovery of the tourism sector is short-lived due to the outbreak of Russia-Ukraine conflict. Tourism industry of nations as Maldives and Sri Lanka is predominately based on European tourists and significantly Russian and Ukrainian tourists cover substantial portion of tourists to the region. According to the records of the month of January of 2022, the Russian tourist arrivals represent owns 16.4% with a total of 13,478 out of 82,327 tourists. (Udeshika 2022) Thus it is evident that a possible violence in Russia and Ukraine bothering Europe would cause in a 20% to 25% or more reduction in tourist arrivals risking the tourism industry of the region.

Thereby, the implication of Ukraine crisis could be defined as an external economic shock which directly transfers through trade linkages due to rising commodity prices, as the region is a net importer of commodities, in the initial stage, while

the indirect effects would emerge through two main channels: first, decreased global demand would affect the demand for goods and services produced in the region on the international market, and

secondly, increased volatility and uncertainty in the financial markets would cause the capital to withdraw to safer investments (Weerasinghe & Wignaraja 2022).

When investigating the economic impact on the region from the global financial unrest triggered by the war, the South Asian economies are threatened with a lower demand for their products and services in the international market due to the rising commodity prices and transportation cost. Moreover, according to experts, uncertainty of the global financial market has increased the volatility of the global financial market affecting global financial flows to the region (Weerasinghe & Wignaraja 2022).

The determination of the advance economies to tighten their monetary policies to deal with rising inflation would add further misfortunes to the South Asia's economies with lower inflow of foreign investments and lower external demand. In addition, the "stronger Western sanctions on Russia for a longer period will result in a persistence rise on commodity prices and global inflation" and thus threatens the South Asian economies for leading to lower external demand for South Asian exports (Weerasinghe & Wignaraja 2022).

Overall, according to estimates most of the South Asian countries like Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are expected to continue long term belt-tightening economic conditions except India and Bangladesh who are better placed, having significantly higher foreign exchange reserves, more diverse sources of foreign exchange, and lower external debt (Price G,

2022) Moreover, it is suggested that India would be able to survive the external economic downturn due to its strong domestic market, but Bangladeshi economy which relies on remittance and exports will also face economic crisis due to lower external demand (Weerasinghe & Wignaraja 2022) The ample foreign exchange reserves of India, around \$600 billion dollars on hand, make it the exceptional country in the region to remain economically unshaken. Besides some argues that, despite the healthy foreign exchange reserves of India and Bangladesh, higher fuel prices for a long-term combined with lower foreign exchange profits would lead any reserves to a rapid depletion (Price. G, 2022).

In contrast to the adverse and harmful causes of the conflicts, affirmative consequences are also estimated by pointing out that the sanctions on Russia can create opportunities for countries in Asia to benefit as Russia is likely to look for more trade with friendly or neutral countries like China and India to circumvent sanctions by the West(Weerasinghe & Wignaraja 2022) For instance, India is the second largest wheat producer of the world yet 19th biggest wheat exporter, thus India could cover supply gaps in international market for wheat by taking steps to export wheat to the global market. Thus evidently “an increase in exports already witnessed in the fiscal year that ended in March – India’s wheat exports hit 7.85 million tons compared to 2.1 million tons in the previous year”.

#### *B. Why South Asia?*

The trilogy of crisis; the pandemic, rising debt crisis and Ukraine conflict could not be completely accused of the plight of the region’s economies. The economies of the region are infected by both external and domestic economic mismanagements and fragile economic policies. In addition, the region is succumbed to higher level of political corruptions and countries like Sri Lanka and Nepal are criticized for usage of foreign loans for construction of vanity projects instead of investing them on productive investments that could generate revenue at their completion. Additionally, apart from India and Bangladesh, the reliance of other regional countries on a specific or fewer industries and exports to earn

foreign exchange reserves is also considered as a major caused in the downfall of the regional economies amplifying the effects of a sudden cross border economic shock waves. Apart from India, the economic giant of the region, most of South Asian states are identified as suffering from poor legal frameworks in dealing with business and firms, banking fragility and rising development of import-biased economy. Despite the importance of the concept of *contagion*<sup>1</sup>, the above facts reveal the vulnerabilities of the economies in the region which would undoubtedly result any nation to end up in an economic mess. Thus, it is necessary to enact concert economic measures and reformations to the above mismanagements of the region in order to grantee a fast recovery, then expected, and to strong defence against future economic shocks.

The South Asian economies are apparently suffering from numerous economic complications, thus during attempts to resolve the economic dilemma of the region, first of all it is necessary to stick to ‘the second-best theory’ which demonstrate that, ‘when an economy suffers from multiple distortions, the removal of only a few may make the matters worse, not better’ (Krugman, Obstfeld & Melitz, 2017).

### III. REFORMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

South Asia is not the only region which had suffered from economic crisis in modern history, especially after the Second World War. The Latin American debt crisis on 1980s and Asian financial crisis in recent history are significant instances which emphasized the domino effect of international financial system. Moreover, instances such as the Great Depression of US, revival of German and Japanese Economies after the Second World War and “East Asia’s economic miracle” provide valuable and motivational examples to the global economies to overcome economic distress.

The commencement of the Latin American debt crisis marks with Mexico’s defaulting on their loans which resulted in discouraging creditors in loaning to the neighboring Latin American countries and thus led the whole region into a decade long economic crisis. In order to overcome the debt crisis Latin American countries as Brazil and Chile, for example, took advanced

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<sup>1</sup> Developing countries are vulnerable and prone to economic crises generated in elsewhere

measurements to revive their economies by means of reducing imports and prioritizing strong commodity exports, privatization, fiscal retrenchments, and introduction of new currencies. Consequently, Brazilian economic growth was healthy and manages to become a power in the emerging world while Chile was successfully able to drop its inflation from 20% to 6% between 1990 and 1997 becoming the least corrupt nation of Latin America. (Krugman, Obstfeld & Melitz, 2017) Similarly, the Asian financial crisis began with Thailand, a small economy in the region, whose currency suffered from sharp drop and was followed by speculations against the currencies of Malaysia, Indonesia and eventually larger economies as South Korea (Krugman, Obstfeld & Melitz, 2017) and effects were considered to spread even in parts of Europe and Latin America.

Thus, analyzing the above such incidents from the past, several recommendations and measures could be followed in order to build up the South Asia's economy. In order to achieve the ends of economic recovery and development of the region, first of all it is important to introduce advance economic and financial policies. Secondly, the establishment of export biased economy in the region prioritizing the production and manufacture of good and serviced that can be exported and have high demand in foreign markets, is also important. Further, the regional states should engage in diverse and alternative industries to earn foreign exchange reserves, as the region is abundant of valuable and unique resources which are often neglected or dominated by illegal trafficking. For instance, Sri Lankans former minister of finance during 1964 to 1965 and 1970 to 1975, Dr. N.M Perera has reformed and introduced new economic policies to earn foreign exchange reserves. In particular, he encouraged the establishment of Sri Lanka's state gem cooperation to increase the profit from Sri Lanka's gem exports while liberating Sri Lanka's gem industry from the monopoly private illegitimate businesses.

Reforming a strong banking system within concrete legal framework and establishing a strong legal system to manage the dealings with business and firms and also to protect them in times of economic distresses.

Additionally, taking steps to promote an advanced economic integration of the region is important;

especially as a result of such integration minor South Asian economies can take advantage from India's massive domestic market.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The Russian invasion of Ukraine exerts multiple shock waves throughout the international system affecting numerous sectors, and global economy is one of such sectors whose collapse will lead into numerous additional crises. Ukraine crisis came about when the world was suffering from a severe debt crisis and has just appeared out of the spoils of the Covid 19 pandemic and thereby created a global economic crisis. Yet its economic impacts are diverse on different regions depending on their degrees of trade linkages and other rapports. For instance, although the location of South Asia is much distant from the epicenter of the conflict, the economic impacts were not mild. Moreover, the effect of the pandemic should not be neglected, because South Asia is considered to be the most affected the region in Asia. Apart, the region was suffering from internal political issues and economic mismanagements and regard as an economically vulnerable region. The economic effects of Ukraine crisis transferred to the region in two ways, directly and indirectly, and ultimately resulted multiple crisis as energy crisis, food crisis and economic crisis while endangering the energy and food security of the region.

This lack of resistance of the region against external economic shock waves is an epitome to prove the economic weaknesses of the region despite its fast growth. Regardless of the interdependent nature of the international system, South Asia's economic meltdown demonstrates the ineffectiveness of the regional economy. Thus, it shows the requirement of the regional economic upgrades to reforms to development of the economy which could stand strong against the effects future economic shocks.

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# Effect Of the Cross Line of Control Trade on Kashmir: A Case Study on Economic Security

Imalka Chandrasekara

**Abstract** - The commencement of crossline of Control trading along the Uri-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote routes on October 21, 2008, as part of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) between Pakistan and India and to promote economic development between Jammu and Kashmir on the Indian side and Azad Jammu and Kashmir on the Pakistani side, marked a paradigm shift since the Indian subcontinent was divided in 1947. Travel and trade across the Line of Control have been able to promote economic development, mutual aid, and transformative spaces, creating improvements that will help lower tensions around Kashmir. This most successful CBM between India and Pakistan halted on April 19, 2019, claiming the use of the trade routes for the transportation of weapons, fake money, and drugs which directly affected the lives of many people. However, this paper outlines the challenges and limitations the industry as well as the stakeholders face, and the future implementations needed for the re-establishment of the Cross Line of Control Trade.

**Keywords** – Cross Line of Control, Confidence Building Measures, Kashmir, Economic development

## I. INTRODUCTION

The insurgency in Kashmir is a result of the unfortunate partitioning of the two countries in 1947, when the British administration of the region was withdrawn. India and Pakistan are currently in talks to find a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir problem that disregards the presence of boundaries without backtracking their earlier positions as their friendship has improved.

On June 23, 1997, an agreement was reached between the foreign secretaries of the two countries regarding the establishment of joint working groups on outstanding issues with a separate working group on Kashmir, with the aim of promoting a friendly and harmonious relationship between Pakistan and

India, including Economic and Commercial Cooperation. The trade provided employment for millions of people. After both nations began stationing hundreds of troops along the LOC in 2002 in response to a number of terrorist strikes in India, a "ceasefire" was announced along the LOC in November 2003. This opened the way for travel across the LOC between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad to begin in April 2005. The Line of Control is the border dividing the two regions of Kashmir. It first became known as the cease-fire line when, following the partition, India and Pakistan waged a war over Kashmir. The United Nations mediated the "ceasefire," which led to the partition of Kashmir because of this war.

Cross LOC trade started on October 21st, 2008. Since the Indian subcontinent was divided in 1947, a paradigm shift has occurred with the commencement of cross-LoC trading along the Uri-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote routes on October 21, 2008, as part of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) between Pakistan and India. As the goods to be traded between the two sides were treated as "Goods Traded-in" and "Goods Traded-out" and not as goods imported and exported, it was decided to keep the trade duty-free.

This most successful CBM between India and Pakistan halted on April 19, 2019, claiming the use of the trade routes for the transportation of weapons, fake money, and drugs which directly affected the lives of many people. However, this paper outlines the challenges and limitations the industry as well as the stakeholders face, and the future implementations needed for the re-establishment of the Cross Line of Control Trade.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. Significance Of Cross-Loc Trade

The movement of separated families across the LoC, followed by cross-LoC trade, gave the people of other parts of Jammu and Kashmir renewed optimism that other steps would be taken to reduce

tension, facilitate contact across the LoC, and alter the nature of the Kashmir issue.

The people of Jammu are in favor of cross-LoC trade for purely economic purposes. Jammu is a commerce hub that regulates wholesale trade with the Kashmir valley as well as with the far-flung areas of the region. If the LoC is opened for trade, the horticultural sector in the Kashmir valley and particularly the fruit farmers. Establishing routes over the LoC consequently makes sound commercial sense for the merchants. Stakeholders in cross-LoC trade are not restricted to Jammu and Srinagar's urban areas; they may also be found in far-off places like Poonch and Uri as well as many other places, particularly those near the LoC. The commerce has given Poonch, a very underdeveloped and underprivileged region, new economic benefits. Demands for the establishment of other conventional routes also grew stronger as a result of the LoC's weakening.

Even the political leaders from both sides engaged in a "heart-to-heart" conversation. Visitors from the media from both sides of the LoC were welcomed. Additionally, there have been cultural exchanges.

#### *B. Challenges And Limitations*

##### *1. Lack of Interaction between Traders and Lack of Communication Facilities*

The main obstacle to trading across the line of control may be the traders' inability to interact with one another. Other than at the trade meeting sites, the traders who are engaged in cross-LoC commerce have no other possibilities to meet. They are not able to reveal a sample of the products they are exchanging. As a result, choosing what should be bought or sold is exceedingly difficult. They are unable to escort their shipment across the line of control, preventing them from receiving the reward of their choice for the goods they are promoting. The trade method is "double blind" in that the traders are unable to see a sample of the items they are buying and do not have the chance to speak directly with their trading partner in order to resolve disagreements and determine whether the partner's products are a good match for their needs.

Another significant barrier to regular trading is the absence of adequate communication infrastructure. The traders on the Indian side of J&K must take a detour to communicate with those on the opposite side since they lack a direct connection. The Indian

government has outlawed international direct dialing to any location in Pakistan, including Pakistan-administered Kashmir, citing security concerns. Additionally, traders are unable to go to meet with their counterparts across the Line of Control. The bus service, which is primarily for residents, is technically available for them to use in order to freely cross to the other side, but in reality, it is only available to divided families.

##### *2. Limited List of Tradable Items*

Only 21 things are available for trade across LoC, which is a relatively small in number. Because of this, it might be challenging for a trader to discover a good match for his preferences, particularly when there is no use of money in the trade system. In furthermore, many of the commodities that were initially permitted for commerce were later prohibited for one reason or another.

##### *3. Lack of Financial Arrangements*

Banks and other financial intermediaries frequently play a significant role in global trade. The letter of credit, which assures the trading partner for payment of his subscriptions, is a tool used by banks to facilitate commerce. However, financial middlemen have no place in the current trade between the two sides of Kashmir. Therefore, there is a potential that payments won't be made. There are quite a few of these issues, in fact. It is extremely difficult to get the mount

refunded if the trade partner on the other side of the Line of Control refuses to pay because it is difficult to travel between the two sections of Kashmir. The traders are forced to deal on the spot market, which may be less favorable if the trader does not find a good match for his intended portfolio, making any delayed payment extremely dangerous.

##### *4. Inadequate Infrastructure*

The procedure of offloading and reloading for screening generates destruction, especially to fresh fruits whose value depreciates significantly, according to the traders, who demand that complete body truck X-ray scanners. The dealers therefore urge that the facility of storing will be upgraded further.

### III. RESULTS

It is clearly highlighted that there are several concerns on cross line of control which yields positive as well as negative impacts on the Kashmir economic security.

- Policy challenges, such as lack of bilateral communication, the continuation of the barter system, limited number of tradable items, an absence in rules of Standard Operating Procedure are some issues which threaten the effectiveness of the cross line of control trading system and its functioning.
- Misuse of the trade routes have caused for an increase in the security threats and has reduced the sustainability of the confidence building measures to reduce tensions in Kashmir.
- Infrastructural challenges. Such as, lack of truck scanners, poor quality in road infrastructure caused for delays in the process of transportation of goods.
- The trade has successfully acted as a source of employment for the unemployed as well as the traders or other stakeholders involved in this trading system.
- The institutional bodies that played a major role regarding the functioning of cross line of control trade have performed some direct and also indirect functioning, such as creating a platform for information exchange by developing dialogues between stakeholders and other authorities by increasing the productivity of the trading system.

### IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

Infrastructure upgradation, both physical and digital, will need to be put in place to ensure transparency. For an instance, full body truck scanners and CCTV cameras should be installed along trade routes to avoid illegal acts, such as, transportation of weapons, fake currency, and narcotics. As the verification was done manually, this would guarantee a thorough examination of the items being exchanged and also reduce unloading and loading in the event of trade-out vehicles. This will be especially helpful for perishable goods, which are one of the main commodities sold.

The revised protocols for this trade should address any loopholes that misuse the trading system. The government may set forth a standard operating procedure (SOP) for trading procedures, which each trader must closely follow. A requirement for merchants to maintain certain documentation, accounting procedures, tax compliances, annual returns, invoices, trade-balance details, etc, and should also be advised to produce the aforementioned documentation before the authorities on a regular basis.

### V. CONCLUSION

People in other parts of Jammu and Kashmir now have renewed hope that additional steps will be taken to reduce tension and open communication across the LoC and alter the dynamics of the Kashmir issue. However, ongoing hostility and loss of trust between Indo-Pakistan have created numerous obstacles and barriers in the way of conflict resolution. This cross-LoC trade has a large potential and can play a significant role in fostering people-to-people contact between the partitioned sections of Jammu & Kashmir, which is crucial for reestablishing peace in the area. Moreover, for this very reason, both governments must engage in a cooperative process to promote trade. Therefore, the reopening of free movement of goods and people across the LoC will improve communication and position both sides of J&K as major players in the peace negotiations. So, it is clear that economic engagement was the most appropriate solution to overcome this political crisis.

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## **PANEL IV**

# **STRATEGY & POLICY PROSPECTIVE**



## Critique On Contribution of UNSC On Global Security In 21<sup>st</sup> Century

GWHDK Arachchige

**Abstract** - This chapter is devoted to examining the contributions of the United Nations to global security in the twenty-first century and the events and actions are taken to achieve them. The form and functions of the Security Council, one of the United Nations grant-making bodies, as well as events so far, focus on particular causes in the new century. However, this topic is not new to the UN agenda and has already been addressed within the framework of the UN Strategy on Global Issues. The burning issue will be analyzed and discussed in light of the activities and initiatives taken by the Security Council and the General Assembly as well as other UN agencies such as the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The world lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and as it grows rapidly, the number of threats also increases rapidly. Primarily, as a threat to security, i.e. global security, an investigation is carried out through two grant areas. That is, the attention is focused on the threatening activities carried out by the countries of the world and various organizations or groups of individuals. are threats. That is to say that the actions carried out in a way that threatens global security with a certain objective or several objectives and the involvement of the United Nations Security Council are critically examined, and actions and solutions and alternatives are examined. It examines the implications, limitations, and threats to using a qualitative methodology, how they have a threatening impact, and critically examines the situation of the UN Security Council in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in particular.

**Keywords** - global security, Security Council of the United Nation, cyber threats, space threats, 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Like the United Nations Security Council as a whole, it was created after World War II to address the failure of the League of Nations to maintain world peace. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN). It ensures international peace and security. , the UNSC is responsible for its powers, including recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly and approving any changes to the UN Charter, as well as establishing peacekeeping operations, imposing international sanctions, and authorizing military action. The Council consists of fifteen members, of which five are permanent. The Security Council met for the first time on January 17, 1946. This research shows that cyber security and space security are the two main threats to global security.

#### A. Cyber Security

This research shows that cyber security is one of the two main threats to global security. Cyber security is the protection of computer systems and networks from information disclosure, theft, or damage to their hardware, software, or electronic data, as well as from interception or misdirection. The primary goal is to ensure system reliability, integrity, and data privacy. Cybersecurity has become a significant challenge in the contemporary world due to the complexity of information systems, both politically and technologically. Cyberspace is one of the most unique and wide-ranging areas of the global commons.

#### B. Space Security

The other area I focused on in this research is space security as a trending topic in the international world. The dual-use nature of space technology, its value to civilian and military communities, and the

inability to distinguish an attack from the defense intent of military hardware make space a particularly ripe area for security dilemmas. challenges. Also, they provide critical data for humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations.

## II. DISCUSSION

A major criticism of the UN Security Council in the 21st century has been that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) are nuclear powers. , has created a uniquely nuclear society where powers are unchecked. Threats of poverty, disease, and environmental degradation (threats to human security identified in the Millennium Development Goals) Threats from conflict between states. Threats of violence and massive human rights violations within the states. Threats from terrorism. These are the primary challenges facing the UN Security Council.

Reforming the security council is key to the successful reform of the United Nations the security council is the most powerful organization within the United Nations critique the security council focuses on the following three points.

(1) Security Council membership does not reflect today's world; Developing countries are underrepresented and there are no permanent members from Africa or Latin America

(2) Five permanent members enjoy veto power and frequently abuse their privilege.

(3) There is a lack of transparency and efficiency in the decision-making process of the Security Council. Although the Security Council has improved decision-making, transparency, and efficiency over the past decade, there has been no progress in expanding the Security Council.

The United Nations Security Council has veto power. That is the power of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US) to veto any "important" resolution. Many UN member states would also like to overturn the P5's veto power, but They realize that is an impossible mission, because the P5, who can veto the UN Charter amendment, will not agree to waive their veto. Therefore, some countries accept and call for the P5 to limit the use

of the veto. Achieving this goal is still extremely difficult.

Almost all UN members agree that reform of the Security Council is necessary. However, this issue touches not only on the North-South conflict but also on the redistribution of power in the world. Every country act in its own national interest. There has been no agreement among UN members, including the P5, on how to adjust the structure of the Security Council, and in particular how to increase the number of new permanent members. Thus, it would be optimistic to assume that the Security Council can be expanded in the near future.

## III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The veto has been criticized for its undemocratic nature. A single country can prevent a majority of the Security Council from taking any action. For example, the United States issues a single veto on resolutions critical of Israel. Regular members veto motions that criticize their actions. In 2014, Russia vetoed a resolution condemning the annexation of Crimea.

Some critics consider the veto power limited to only the five permanent unsafe, unfair or counterproductive. Peter Nadin writes "The veto is a chronology ... In the twenty-first century, the veto has come to be almost universally seen as a disproportionate power and an impediment to credible international action in crises." The "overwhelming influence of the veto" has been cited as a reason for the United Nations' ineffectiveness in preventing and responding to genocide, violence, and human rights violations. Various countries outside of permanent members, such as the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Union, have proposed limits on the veto power. Reform of the veto power is often included in proposals to reform the Security Council.

The veto has been used to protect allies of permanent members and to prevent or halt UN peacekeeping or peace enforcement operations. The threat of using a veto can still have an effect even if a veto is not stated.

Justifications for vetoes are usually based on the interests of permanent members and that peace and security are only possible if the great powers all

work together. According to one author, four reasons were evident at the conference;

- 1) unanimity was considered essential to peace.
- 2) require permanent members to protect their national interests.
- 3) the need to protect minority groups from greater hegemony. majority coalitions; &
- 4) the desire to prevent emergency Security Council resolutions.” etc.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The world lives in the 21st century and as it grows rapidly, the number of threats also increases rapidly. Primarily, as a threat to security, i.e., global security, the investigation is carried out across two grant areas. That is, the focus is on the threatening activities carried out by countries and various organizations or groups of individuals. are threats. Threats are focused on threatening activities carried out by countries and various organizations or groups of individuals in the world. In particular, the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as other UN bodies such as the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, will analyze and discuss the activities undertaken in relation to this pressing issue. Critically examines the UN's contribution to cyber and space security threats to global security in the twenty-first century, and the events and actions that are taken to address them, i.e., those factors and events that have and have not contributed to the UNSC.

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## Soft Power Projection of the USA; A Case Study on American Film Industry From 2011-2021

S.K.J.Ratnayake

**Abstract** – *Soft power is a formidable instrument that helps the USA to protect its sovereignty and security. It strives to underline the importance of the country engaging with other states. When it comes to the present-day context, through Hollywood combined with technology, the USA begins to apply viewpoints and philosophical arguments that comprise its soft power in the international political arena. The American Film industry, which works throughout the world to instill America's image in people's minds, is an entertainment vehicle that facilitates the transmission of social and political messages from the United States. The American Film industry, known as Hollywood, conveys the culture of Americans, argues the necessity for democratic ideals around the globe, and strives to transform foreign public lifestyles in social and political areas into a shape appropriate to American values in order to reign in contemporary international politics. In this paper, The American film industry will be investigated as a soft power tool of the USA, and its significance corresponding to contemporary international politics will be examined.*

**Keywords**- *Soft Power, American Film Industry (Hollywood), America*

### I. INTRODUCTION

The USA strives to categorize the globe in accordance with its own foreign policy. Since the USA is the world's only superpower, its actions can influence other nations' foreign relations. The notion of Americanism is well-known around the globe since it became the world superpower; the goal of Hollywood is to create a new political technique that is used in international politics. It involves the promotion of American culture through the movies. This phenomenon is carried out through the USA's efforts to covertly rule the world.

When it comes to power, the use of economic and military methods to influence the conduct or interests of other groups in politics is referred to as hard power where the USA holds the upper hand, and soft power is derived from history, diplomacy, and cultural

factors. A country's culture is a vital component of its soft power. It can be universal, and it can be used to influence other cultures.

During the past 10 years of time, the USA has been focusing on soft power than using hard power considering their actions in the global political arena moreover the US has an unavoidable tendency toward resenting traditional values and norms. This is why traditional norms are being threatened by the USA (Baniya, 2021).

This is where the American film industry comes into action, where it influences the globe by planting the fact in people's minds that America is a place where dreams come true while promising hope, supporting democracy, and justifying the ideals of freedom. America being in the center of global culture hegemonically (Allison, 2008) denotes how strong its soft power projection can be and how much it aids contemporary international politics.

### II. DISCUSSION

#### A. Soft power of US

During the 1990s, Joseph Nye Jr. Introduced the concept of soft power, which is the ability to attract and retain people. This concept is different from other forms of power, as it does not require the use of coercion. Besides being non-coercive, soft power also includes various factors such as political values and culture (Nye Jr., 2012). The attractiveness of a country is influenced by its culture, foreign policies, and political ideas. Soft power is also involved. The works of Nye have gained widespread recognition due to their significant impact on US foreign policy. He argued that culture is a new source of power and that soft power falls under the usual conception of power. The concept of soft power is the ability to influence others through attraction. It allows people to obtain desirable outcomes through their actions rather than through coercion (Baniya, 2021).

The rise of the Technological and information age has created an opportunity for states to gain soft power by developing effective communicational pathways that



can help frame issues and promote their interests. These include those with dominant cultures and international perspectives, as well as those with strong domestic and international policies (Nye Jr., 2012). The importance of culture is a key component of soft power. It can be applied to everyone, and it is constantly evolving. American popular culture is also a crucial part of Nye's worldview. The US is the primary driver of globalization and modernity, and it has an unavoidable resentment toward traditional cultures. This can threaten established norms and values in Islamic society (McKercher, 2012).

Soft power is not something that can be done, like; "Let's go do soft power to fix this problem" It is based on the power of influence, in that case, thus in order to have influence, you must have the power of attraction. You must be admired as a role model in order to have influence. The concept of soft power originated at the end of the cold war. Joseph Nye was attempting to develop an explanation for why the United States continues to be in power as a result of the United States' complicated independence from other countries as a result of the institutions. People are drawn in by the US displaying their difficulties. In other words, they don't always brag about how terrific they are; instead, they focus on the mistakes they've made and the issues they're dealing with. For example, the film *Traffic*, directed by Steve Gagen, depicted the network of the problem, from poor people in Mexico and how they act as mules all the way up to the top of the DEA. This was not a video that solved the problem; rather, it demonstrated the magnitude of the problem.

Furthermore, there are changes in superhero movies; diversification of the superhero is something that people all over the world notice; it is no longer just a white guy rescuing the world. This sends a very strong message all throughout the world. Therefore, we can say that USA's soft power rests on its transparency.

The USA tries to present itself as a country that values democracy and freedom. However, it also tries to maintain its soft power through public diplomacy. Soft power is a natural by product of political and cultural appeal. It is an attraction that interprets the principles and ideals of a country or government as a project that can be performed (Rawnsley, 2012). When it comes to international politics it is a struggle for power. The ultimate goal of any political movement is to rule. Power is always the immediate goal (Morgenthau, 1954). Power is an essential component of contemporary international politics (Carr, 1964). As a

result, an attempt has been made to give a critical study of these powers' involvement in international affairs.

#### *B. American Film Industry as A Tool of Soft Power*

Joseph Nye's work challenges the accepted assumption of America's flaws. It emphasizes that The United States is a powerful country not just economically but also militarily. But also, with economic and military might Soft power unparalleled by the rest of the world. Since then, the term "soft power" has gained currency and been widely used by scholars and Policymakers all throughout the world.

The Hollywood movie theatre is an important part of the US's soft power (Hayden, 2012). It offers various products and services that are designed to protect the interests of the country. Similar to diplomacy, the topics covered in movies also have similar elements. The US used the soft power of films during the 1950s to counter the Soviet Union (Nilsen, 2011). They were also used to promote the country's culture. The film industry is additionally a vital part of the nation's foreign policy also it is regarded as a soft power tool for the US. It can help promote the country's culture and ideals, and it can additionally help spread the mental processes of the country.

Films can also be used to criticize political figures and the fascist government. They can additionally be used to interpret the cultural and social demands of Americans. Most of the time, movies try to destroy ethnocentrism by focusing on various aspects of life. Besides promoting

Political ideals, the movie industry can also use its soft power to promote other achievements of the country. For instance, it can help protect citizens from criminals and defeat communism.

The United States uses various strategies and tactics to promote its foreign policy. These include psychological warfare and propaganda. In addition to these, the country also conducts other activities to convince the public that its policies are legitimate. The US follows up on its foreign policy goals as changes in world politics occur. Through its soft power, it uses mass communication tools to reach out to the public and promote its interests (Aydemir, 2017).

Hollywood is a soft power instrument that sends messages to huge groups of people that freedom is a symbol of democracy and spreads American philosophy and ideas, causing people to conform to these characteristics. The United States employs its

perspectives and philosophical arguments in international politics through Hollywood. If a culture is unappealing to outsiders, the relevant artifact doesn't produce soft power and it may produce revulsion. For example, if we compare Russian and American films, which do you think is more likely? Of course, American films. As a base for it, we can take the diversification and the happy endings of Hollywood. Hollywood receives tax breaks, subsidies, and other perks for filming in their own nation. Furthermore, the United States is well-known for obtaining permission to film at strategic and historical places, which is a challenging assignment in other nations. For instance, NASA grants permission to utilize their logo and sites, and as proof, several of the movie sequences in Transformers were shot at NASA locations.

In this backdrop, Hollywood's international position as a soft power instrument for America has been hotly debated. Hollywood, which assists the US administration, has an unlawful control system based on the target demographic. Through the movies, people are provided with a framework that allows them to absorb American ideas. This allows them to make informed decisions regarding their country's foreign policy. The soft power of the US is also used to promote various issues that are related to democracy, human rights, and culture. The promotion of American culture has also been linked to the rise of cultural imperialism.

This phenomenon encourages consumerism in other countries. Hollywood films are considered as the American medium, it has inspired the film industry in many other nations. It is called Hollywoodizing (Rampal, n.d.) which affects other states' film industries.

As Thomas Friedman wrote, "today's era is dominated by American power, American culture, the American dollar, and the American navy" in the present-day context, Hollywood is known for its creativity and acts as a protective force for the US government. This is done through its various visual appearances and commerce (Aydemir, 2017). Therefore, we can see how Americans are shaping the world according to their preferences by using the film industry and making the world believe that the USA is the powerhouse.

### *C. American Film Industry as A Propaganda Tool in Foreign Policy*

Hollywood, which completely tells the culture of America, cooperates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USA, CIA, and other public institutions in order to form a proper propagation of foreign policy. Many American movies like Avengers, Argo, Transformers, Captain America, and the outpost involve propagation strategies such as, an American who saves the world, an American who catches bad men, an American who struggles against terrorism, an American who makes people free, an American who protects local people, an American who support no division of countries, an American who struggles against Communism, an American who saves refugees from dictators etc. These propagation strategies describe the soft power of the foreign policy of America in transferring desired information to the audience and convincing them and thus starting a public diplomacy implementation in the use of cinema with many-sided propagation of people. Movie Propaganda is put into practice as a psychological war that every strategy that American movies apply, and it is aimed that both their own people and other people believe these politics managing the strategies of foreign policy to be seen as legitimate.

Hollywood is a manifestation of America's mental process for achieving its political goals. In this regard, movies are made, and conveyed in accordance with foreign policy goals and ideals, needs and wishes are exposed, and multifaceted behaviors are located to target audiences in such a manner that one thing is the outcome of another. For instance, Hollywood movies make people feel the psychology of war dictatorship and living under a communist system and then point out the vital reality, and then gives people messages related to exaltation of American values, military images, and humanism with the basic soft power tools of the United States of America and make them feel American heroism and lead people to question the political system and be aware of where they are. As a result, Hollywood films have reason to criticize totalitarian and fascist governments as a source of inspiration for people's political feelings, forming a foundation for social demands and meaning attribution to American values, and most importantly, they cover all walks of life with Americanism demolishing ethnocentrism.

### III. FINDINGS

The soft power of the United States forms mental pictures on target audience with the basis of objective perception and feelings thereby leading the target audience to justify the picture to the extent what they perceive. Hence, global values that constitute soft power of the United States gain symbolic attractiveness.

Hollywood is a powerful propagation tool that the United States use in order to hold the world into its own side and Hollywood is used as a type of strategy of foreign policy of the United States that formulate belief and dominant opinions on society that elevates America and exalts its image. The Americans have formulated the foreign policy meticulously in a manner that could easily be understood by people across the globe in spite of the differences in race, caste, languages etc., through the use of soft power, the most apt example being the "Hollywood".

### IV. CONCLUSION

The United States' soft power produces mental pictures on the target audience based on objective perception and feelings, and the target audience justifies the picture to the extent that they perceive, so global values that constitute the United States' soft power gain symbolic attraction. Hollywood is a powerful propagation tool that the United States uses to keep the world on its side, and Hollywood is a foreign policy strategy of the United States that forms beliefs and dominant opinions on society, that raises America and exalts its image, that tells foreign policy without regard for the level of education, culture, and that carries national benefits and American values into international places.

The American film industry has a significant impact on the cultural values of other countries. They begin to believe that America is a land of ultimate freedom and democracy after seeing how American culture is represented in movies. Therefore, this research depicts that America is attempting to promote Americanism through Hollywood without employing hard power and hastening the creation of a global American culture in order to infiltrate the national identities and sovereignties of other states.

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# The Role of International Law in The Preservation of Human Rights Violations; Case Study of Sierra Leone ,1991-2021

Deweni Nadeesha Rambukwella

**Abstract**— Sierra Leone, often known as Salone or the Republic of Sierra Leone, is a nation on the southwest coast of West Africa. Guinea encircles the southern part of the country, and Liberia borders the southeast. Freetown is the country's largest and capital city. The serious and grotesque human rights violations in Sierra Leone had been there since its civil war in 1991. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF), supported by Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) special forces, intervened in Sierra Leone on March 23, 1991, to overthrow the Joseph Momoh government. Up to February 2002, Sierra Leone was embroiled in civil war. Over 50,000 people died in the ensuing civil war, which engulfed the nation and lasted 11 years. Human rights in Sierra Leone are in a deplorable state since the beginning of its civil war in 1991. This research seeks to examine the major human rights problems, such as Women's Rights, Children's Rights, while tracing the effects of human rights violations in Sierra Leone people. The reader will gain a better understanding of the impact of international law, and resolutions in the preservation of human rights in Sierra Leone and this research intends to analyse the role of NGOs and United Nations human rights programs to preserve the major human-rights problems in Sierra Leone today. The introduction, background of the problem, and objectives of the research were stated at the beginning of the research. Based on the correlational character of the study, availability of data, and contextual relevance through using primary and secondary sources, a qualitative methodological approach and as well as a quantitative methodological approach was proposed. Both approaches will be used to analyse the data, followed by a discussion, findings, results, and recommendations. Students and academics interested in human rights violations, international law, and conflict resolution studies will find this material useful.

**Keywords**— Human Rights, Human Rights Violations, International Law

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Sierra Leone at a Glance

On the southwestern tip of West Africa is the nation of Sierra Leone. It has land boundaries with Guinea in the northeast and Liberia in the southeast. As of Monday, October 3, 2022, Sierra Leone had 8,341,640 people living there, according to World



Figure 7: Sierra Leone Map

Meter's analysis of the most recent United Nations data. Pedro de Sintra, a Portuguese navigator who was the first European to see and map Freetown harbor, is credited with giving the nation its name. One of the largest natural harbors in the world is in the country's capital, Freetown.

Mining and agriculture account for a sizable percentage of the economy. Rice, cassava, coffee, cocoa, and oil palm are the main crops, and rutile, bauxite, and diamonds are mined. In Sierra Leone, a republic with only one chamber of parliament, the president serves as both the head of state and the executive branch of government. Most likely the initial settlers were the Bulom and Temne, with Mande-speaking peoples only beginning to arrive in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The Portuguese made multiple visits to the coastal area in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and built a fort not far from where Freetown is now. The English constructed trading posts on remote islands in the 17<sup>th</sup>



century because of regular visits from European ships searching for slaves and ivory. British abolitionists and benefactors founded Freetown in 1787 as a private enterprise for freed and runaway slaves. In 1808, the coastal settlement became a British colony. The region received British protectorate status in 1896. In 1961, it attained independence; in 1971, it established itself as a republic. Since achieving independence, Sierra Leone has had several military coups. In 2002, an 11-year civil war that caused more destruction to the country and was characterized by horrible atrocities came to an end.

#### B. Sierra Leone Civil War

From 1991 to 2002, Sierra Leone experienced civil war, a violent struggle in a West African nation. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) led by Foday Sankoh attempted to topple the government of President Joseph Momah of Sierra Leone on March 23, 1991, with the help of Charles Taylor, the leader of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NFPL), a group of Liberian rebels. A nation of four million people, Sierra Leone saw one of the worst civil wars in Africa, leaving more than 50,000 dead and 500,000 refugees. Given that the RUF and the government of



Figure 9: Sierra Leone Conflict

Sierra Leone were frequently supported by "blood diamonds," which were mined using slave labour, the fight was especially bloody and protracted (Blood Diamond, 2006). Since the beginning of the civil conflict in 1991, human rights in Sierra Leone are in a deplorable state.

#### What led to the civil war in Sierra Leone?

- The competition for seizing control of lucrative diamond-producing regions* Diamonds were a core part of the fight since they provided the RUF with a priceless source of revenue for its operations. Battles frequently took place over regions rich in diamonds as both the RUF and government soldiers developed an interest in

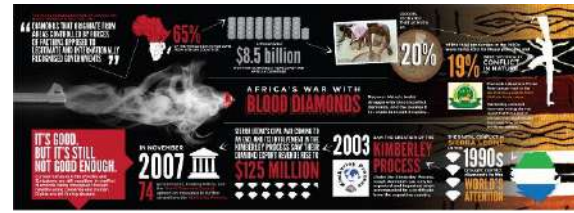


Figure 8: An infographic on conflict diamonds showing a timeline along with general statistics

illegal diamond mining. Between 1991 and 1999, the RUF is estimated to have profited from the illegal diamond trade at a rate of almost \$200 million annually. It is well known that Charles Taylor exchanged these illegal diamonds for weaponry and ammunition that were later mislabelled as being from Liberia before being lawfully transferred abroad.

- History of 'Grievance'* - Mixed resentments from Sierra Leone's colonial era have left their mark on the country's history. During the British colonial era, a two-class society with a feeble bureaucracy was developed, laying the groundwork for eventual popular unrest. Mismanagement during the post-colonial period, particularly under the administration of Siaka Stevens (1967–1984), even caused the state structure to entirely collapse. As a result, without access to quality education and jobs, the young population in both urban and rural areas was further excluded from society. Political and economic resentments toward the government and the ruling elites were stoked by this.
- Marginalised Youth* - The young generation appears to have become more and more excluded from society as educational options have shrunk. Abdullah (1998) claims that from 16,414 in 1969 to 96,709 in 1990, there were more students enrolled in secondary schools. However, barely 60,000 people held paid work by 1985, and the job market conditions grew worse. By 1990, even college graduates found it challenging to find employment in the public sector, and the private sector was also fast contracting. Many middle-class students and school dropouts during this time, or perhaps earlier, started to be connected to the more disaffected and impoverished urban youngsters. In 1977, this led to the general conditions that allowed student protest to spread outside of campuses.

- d) *The Formation of the RUF* - Despite the history's accumulation of complaints, there should be active protagonists who take advantage of these complaints by directing them down the path of conflict. The RUF, which had received military assistance from Charles Taylor of Liberia, was the key player in the situation in Sierra Leone.
- e) *External Assistance* - Though this began as a civil war, the gruesome battle in Sierra Leone was also deeply entwined with a variety of outside elements that were prominent in West African politics. First, it is well known thanks to Taylor's recent conviction that the civil war in Sierra Leone and the civil war in Liberia cannot be separated from one another. Taylor's arming of the RUF and the NPFL's involvement in the Sierra Leone civil war are no longer controversial, despite the possibility that some of the allegations were made up by the government of Sierra Leone during the war for political purposes and repeated by the media without careful thought.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. Children in Sierra Leone

Children in Sierra Leone encounter a variety of connected barriers that prevent the realization of their human rights. Most urgently, young children are at



Figure 10: Children of Sierra Leone  
- Humanium

danger for early child marriage, teenage pregnancies, child labour, female genital mutilation, and gender-based violence. All children in the society are at danger due to certain risks: systemic poverty, poor health conditions, and educational difficulties, etc.

It is estimated that in Sierra Leone, over 45% of children between the ages of 5 and 17 labour as minors, with over 20% of those working in hazardous conditions. Major cities like Freetown and Kenema are especially notorious for having high rates of the worst types of child labour, such as indecent work and child exploitation. In Sierra Leone, it's considered that child trafficking is both common and dangerous, and that the country serves as a hub for movements of children who have already been victims of trafficking elsewhere.

The GOAL baseline assessment which is a part of a project sponsored by Irish Aid and the EU in collaboration with World Hope International (WHI) and the Sierra Leone Labour Congress (SLLC), arrives at the conclusion that "the child protection system in Sierra Leone is relatively weak, under-resourced, donor-dependent, and lacking coordination" even though the Sierra Leonean authorities have adopted and supported numerous international children's rights policies (Lavelle, 2020). An important contributing element in the occurrence of child protection difficulties is perceived to be the system's inability to adequately monitor and prosecute offenders.

### B. Addressing children's needs

- 1) *The Right to Education*: Access to high-quality education is still difficult for most youngsters in Sierra Leone. Cultural norms and physical impediments are the two main categories of educational hurdles that are connected.

Culturally, female genital mutilation (FGM), which frequently compels girls to drop out of school, and gender-based discrimination are made possible by the persistent marginalization of women. Similarly, poor children find it challenging to survive in school settings due to a lack of inclusive learning environments that discriminate against and stigmatize people who have disabilities (Street Child, 2018).

Girls' educational possibilities are greatly hampered by ongoing physical abuse in the form of sexual and gender-based assault, along with mental abuse in educational settings. Girls are frequently compelled to abandon formal education at an extremely young age due to high rates of coerced early child marriage and adolescent pregnancies, as well as a lack of importance given to girls' education.

The difficulties girls in Sierra Leone have accessing education is best illustrated by the Ebola crisis of 2015. The Sierra Leonean government officially forbade young, expectant girls from attending school during the outbreak. The increase in the number of adolescent pregnancies that came along with the epidemic prompted the implementation of this strategy (Amnesty International, 2020).

In response to these difficulties, the government of Sierra Leone started the Free Quality School Education (FQSE) project in 2018, which aimed to give all students enrolled in government-approved schools free tuition. The project was

enthusiastically appreciated, but a sizable proportion of children were unable to attend schools since they lived in far-flung villages, making it challenging to access schools (UNICEF Sierra Leone ). In conclusion, while the FGSE project should be successful in the upcoming years, Sierra Leone must also put in place measures to better support girls and children with disabilities so that they may be guaranteed dependable access to high-quality education.

- 2) *The Right to Health:* In Sierra Leone, 96.3 deaths from infants under the age of five are reported for every 1000 live births. This alarming result reflects both the pervasive lack of proper healthcare services and the ongoing high rates of malnutrition.

Chronic malnutrition continues to be a major problem for Sierra Leone, and it was made worse by the Ebola epidemic of 2015, which led to widespread inflation. 31.3% of kids experience development retardation (Action Against Hunger, 2019).

Additionally, Sierra Leone has one of the highest rates of malaria in the world, making kids under five especially vulnerable to infection, disease, and death (WHO, 2016). According to estimates, up to 20% of all child deaths are caused by malaria. Furthermore, the nation continues to be vulnerable to pollution and climate change, which are destroying fertile land (UNDP) and eradicating employment prospects in agriculture

### C. Women in Sierra Leone

Women in Sierra Leone are at risk for gender-based and sexual violence, including marital rape, school-related sexual abuse, adult and child sexual assault, and harmful cultural practices including female genital mutilation.



Figure 12: Sierra Leonean Women

Less than 20% of elected seats in Sierra Leone are held by women, who make up 52% of the country's overall population. In comparison to men, their representation, visibility, participation, and voice in elective and appointed posts are still quite low. Among these barriers include the lack of progressive

laws that safeguard and support women's participation, high rates of illiteracy, deeply ingrained customs and practices, political violence and reprisal, a lack of economic independence, and lack of confidence to run for office.

### D. Challenges Confront by Sierra Leonean women

Women in Sierra Leone suffer a variety of difficulties, including genital mutilation, discrimination, and gender-based violence. Women in the country have significantly less "voice, visibility, participation, and representation in elective and appointment posts" than men do. Despite making considerable "contributions to the economy" and supporting their family, women in Sierra Leone experience severe marginalization (Lewallyn, 2022).

In addition to highlighting the political, legal, and economic circumstances of Sierra Leoneans following the war, the book "War, Women and Post-conflict Empowerment: Lessons from Sierra Leone" also illustrates the daily hardships of women attempting to better their lives. 13 chapters make up the book, which focuses on many facets of women's and girls' life after Sierra Leone's civil war, which lasted from 1991 to 2002. It combines numerous stories about one nation that come from various viewpoints, occupations, and academic fields. The range of viewpoints provides a rich and complex picture of the struggles and achievements that women and girls in post-war Sierra Leone had to deal with (Beoku-Betts & M'Cormack-Hale, 2022).

- 1) *Female Genital Mutilation:* In Sierra Leone, female genital mutilation (FGM) is a common



Figure 11: FGM in Sierra Leone

practice. The Northern and Western regions of the nation, respectively, have the greatest prevalence rates with 96.3% and 75.6%. The procedures are frequently carried out by people without medical expertise, without anaesthesia, and with badly sanitized equipment ( Amnesty International, 2020).

In Sierra Leone, active participation in "secret societies" has negative effects on women and girls. The Sierra Leoneans believe that these unassuming societies serve as important "culture institutions" that "guard communities against evil and guide adolescent

females to womanhood." These societies are entrenched in ancient rites. 90% of girls and women in Sierra Leone between the ages of 15 and 49 undergo the immoral practice, making it one of the countries with the highest rates of genital cutting worldwide. Female community members frequently use blades, razors, and even glass shards to perform genital mutilation surgeries "without anaesthesia". In addition to the possibility of significant bleeding, female genital mutilation can cause a wide range of health issues, from "infections and cysts to infertility and trouble in childbirth."

- 2) *Marginalization in the Workforce:* In Sierra Leone, women have always contributed significantly to economic progress and frequently play a crucial role in securing the survival of their family. More than 60% of the agricultural labour required for the country's food production is done by women in rural Sierra Leone. However, according to USAID, men continue to have more prospects for management and influence within the industry, ultimately demoting women to lower-paying positions.
- 3) *Lack of Political Representation:* Women in Sierra Leone still struggle to enter legislative politics despite their participation in the peace process and efforts to boost their involvement in public life. Two national and two municipal elections have taken place in Sierra Leone since the horrific civil war ended there in 2002, and a third round of national and local elections will be held in 2012. Women continue to remain underrepresented in Sierra Leone's political institutions despite some encouraging advances, particularly at the municipal level.

Pre-independence politics in Sierra Leone had a long history of female participation. Sadly, the nation's turbulent political history of coups, countercoups, and one-party totalitarianism in the post-independence era put an end to women's political engagement. Women and women's organizations have been instrumental in fostering peace and conducting high-profile campaigns to enhance the presence of women in public life, despite their lack of involvement in politics prior to the civil war. Women in Sierra Leone are still underrepresented in the legislature and local government.

### III. FINDINGS

International human rights legislation establishes duties that States are required to uphold. States take on responsibilities and obligations under international law to respect, preserve, and uphold human rights when they ratify international treaties and become party to those agreements. States are prohibited from obstructing or restricting the exercise of human rights under the commitment to respect. States are required to defend people and groups from violations of human rights under the commitment to protect. States are required to act in a way that promotes the enjoyment of fundamental human rights under the commitment to fulfil.

The following findings were reached by the conduct of research studies relevant to international law focused on the human rights violations in Sierra Leone that happened during the civil war and after years of conflict.

- Through widespread activism, groups working for women's and children's rights are contesting the constraints on their rights that currently exist in place
- **International Covenant on the Rights of the Child:** The Sierra Leonean government's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) through its national laws, policies, and activities is thoroughly examined in the country's UNCRC Adult report. It represents the opinions of CSOs regarding children's rights in Sierra Leone and spans the years 2016 through July 2021.
- **The West Africa Regional Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR-WARO):** The OHCHR WARO covers Sierra Leone. Through advocacy, advisory services, and technical assistance to national authorities, national human rights agencies, civil society, and international and regional organizations, the Office supports the promotion and protection of human rights. Additionally, it keeps track of human rights developments and aids numerous parties in enhancing human rights defence mechanisms and integrating human rights into programs.
- **The Rainbow Initiative:** The Rainbo Initiative is a legally recognized nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Sierra Leone that was founded in 2014 with the mission of empowering local communities to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and advance social equality for all.



Through prevention, intervention, and evidence-based advocacy, our work aims to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence in communities. RI currently operates six (6) Rainbo Centres in Freetown, Kenema, Kono, Makeni, Bo, and Kambia. These centres work to improve service delivery for the safety and wellbeing of women and children by promoting best practices with the government and other service providers.

- The first lady of Sierra Leone, Madam Fatma Maada Bio, endorsed efforts for the United Nations to designate November 18 as the day to



Figure 13: VOA Interview: First Lady of Sierra Leone Talks Gender-based Violence

yearly honour victims of gender-based violence. A resolution adopted by the UN paved the door for victims to obtain justice. The days of impunity, according to Fatma Maada Bio in an interview with Vos Vita Claude, are over.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the results of this study, which focused on women's and children's rights, I believe the following recommendations should be made:

- a. Policymakers need to be aware that a nation's chosen election system is just as important in boosting representation as affirmative action policies.
- b. Adopt broad anti-discrimination legislation that focuses on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- c. Women's activist organizations require ongoing funding to be able to support female political aspirants with advocacy, legislative support, and essential training.
- d. To combat stigmatization within communities, programming must take a holistic approach and include awareness-raising and sensitization activities that target caregivers, other students in the classroom,

teachers, or important stakeholders, such as local, religious, and "secret society" leaders, as well as other members of civil society.

#### V. CONCLUSION

Gross human rights violations have a tragic history in Sierra Leone. Extreme prejudice played a crucial role in the civil war's polarization. As this nation continues to recover, the prevalence of violence must be eradicated, and discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity should not be encouraged by the state.

Human security is described as defending people from threats to their self-respect. Human security not only serves as a solid starting point for identifying security risks of all kinds, but it is also essential for highlighting the interrelationships between the threats. These relationships emphasize how crucial it is to address all security issues because if one is disregarded, others may surface. A lack of educational opportunities, for instance, could result in economic insecurity if the issue of child marriages is overlooked. Therefore, failing to handle security as a wide concept will only yield modest benefits. However, in Sierra Leone, a framework for human security alone is insufficient; it must also take gender equality into account.

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# The Impact of Negative Media on The Proceedings of The United Nations; The Shift in Public Outlook and Its Consequences

KVN De Silva

**Abstract**— *Media is instrumental in shaping the public persona of an institution and yields unparalleled power in creating and sharing of narratives. United Nations, as one of the leading international organizations of the world has always become prey to widespread media scrutiny. The negative media targeting United Nations has vehemently contributed towards faltering public's opinions of the Organization. This study focuses on analyzing and examining the negative media compiled on the proceedings and actions of the United Nations Organization. Data and statistics needed for the compilation of the research has been extracted from secondary sources, books, Reports, websites, Documentaries and etc. The research determines and showcases how negative media has deterred United Nations Organizations from accomplishing its envisioned goals and targets. It further analyses and showcases the influence of United Nations' Public image and how instrumental it is in accomplishing its targets and goals, concurrently, expounding further on how negative media has shifted public perception on the efficiency of the United Nations as an international organization.*

**Keywords**— Negative media, public outlook, United Nations

## I. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations organization since its inception has been long subjected to pervasive media attention. Inherently the nature of such media speculation was both positive and negative in nature.

Nonetheless it has been observed that Media, occasionally targets United Nations organization and similarly holds a tendency to over exaggerate the failings suffered by the organization. The infamous media coverage targeting the United Nations organization has tarnished the organization's public image to irrevocable extents.

This study in particular recognizes and acknowledges the ways in which the United Nations organization and

its procedures have been affected due to the said negative media coverage, by shedding light on the nexus between the media, public outlook, and international organization.

Public outlook is of immense importance to a public institution, particularly to an international organization as magnanimous as the United Nations organizations. Such international organization or public institutions' continuation and sustenance heavily depend upon the public image portrayed by the said organizations.

Thereby in contemporary times Media assumes an indispensable role in tailoring the public image of an organization. Hence undoubtedly it can be established that the notion of public image and public outlook remains crucial to the existence and public acceptance of an International Organization.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. Nexus Between Media, Public Outlook, and International Organizations

The age that we live in is popularly known as the age of information, where there is limitless access to unlimited information. Media plays a significant role in the age of information by transmitting the gathered information to the general public (Bray, 2018).

Thereby the media shoulders a weighing responsibility in communicating reliable and true information to the general public and also the media plays a vital part in shaping and managing public opinion and public outlook.

During the contemporary times, the most convenient way of accessing information is also through varying platforms of media. Thereby there is an uncontested connection or rather a nexus between the two components Media and Public outlook.

International organizations or institutions of any caliber in the present day require the general public's support for the legitimacy and the guaranteed continuation of the organization, which has made it imperative for international organizations to establish and portray a favorable positive image that will pave the way to win mass public support and favor.

The legitimacy and the continuation of these organizations heavily depend upon the extent to which they are accepted by the general public. Particularly in the case of the United Nations, favorable public support is pivotal for the execution of its policies and decisions. The United Nations official website declares “democracy” to be the core value of the organization. (United Nations, 2021). For democracy to be upheld as a core value of the organization it is imperative to secure a positive public outlook that would guarantee public’s approval on the continuation and the procedures of United Nations as an Organization.

The E-journal of Legal service of India acknowledges that Media is considered to be the fourth pillars of democracy (legalserviceindia.com, n.d.). Pointing out how media influence’s public opinion, further elaborating the fact that positive outlook in a democracy is equivalent to the legitimization and validation receivable from the public

#### *B. The Causes Behind Media’s Distaste for United Nations.*

Throughout the seventy-five year long course, the United Nations organization has had its fair share of failures and oversights. Which the media has reported on numerous occasions through the outlets of varying publishers and media stations. However, noticeably the number of articles discussing atrocities of the United Nations organization remains higher than the number of articles applauding its successes. Hardly few media platforms discuss the successes as seen by the United Nations organization in addition to the articles and content published by United Nations Official website.

For an instance the TRT world has published an article in 2018, titled “twelve times the UN has failed the world” (TRTWorld, 2018), Gravitas plus openly debating whether the UN is a redundant body to Professor Anne Bayefsky openly declaring the United Nations institution to be “failing”. Often than not, there are several unfortunate incidents that provide breeding grounds for extensive media backlash.

For an instance the ever-present tensions amongst the Security Council members and its lackluster performances are often numerous highlighted in the media (Symons, 2020) with OpinioJuris penning an article highlighting the Security Council’s actions

towards Syria calling all efforts nothing short of abysmal, whilst “The interpreter” implies the UN is experiencing a “diplomatic breakdown”. While multiple articles and videos addressing the United Nations’ many mishaps are prevalent and available plentifully through many media outlets, very few articles or media inputs are found in support of the United Nations organization, in addition to the favorable articles published by the United Nations official website.

The study has through extensive research accumulated several causes that would provide as proof for Media’s

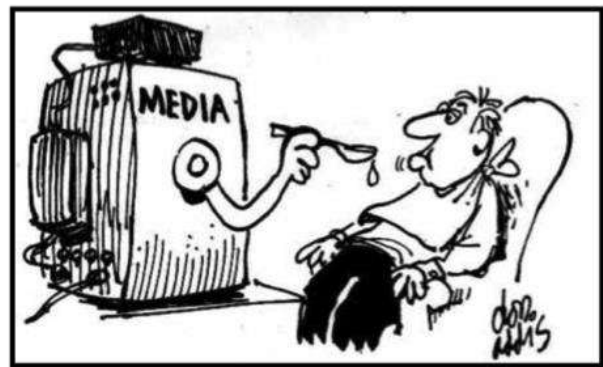


Figure 14: The influence of negative media

infinite distaste for the United Nations organization. For an instance the media has gone on to discuss the same failures experienced by the United Nations organization for several years. The same topic being discussed for a prolonged period of time, is bound to undermine the timely positive work that is being carried out by the organization. For an instance the Media has repeatedly discussed the infamous Rwandan genocide, unsuccessful United nations operation in Somalia, Syria, Iraqi invasion to list a few. (Writers, 2018). Whereas very few articles are dedicated to discussing the success as perceived by the United Nations organization.

#### **III. RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The previous sections extensively discussed how positive public outlook yields public support and how having mass public support bolsters United Nations functioning, which further highlights the importance of assisting the United Nations efforts in positive image building, as United Nations is the pioneering international organization in the world. Nonetheless, a recent study conducted by the International Crisis group in the year 2021, has demarcated disinformation and misinformation to be pressing challenges in their journey towards success.

They have recognized the negative press and the media's penchant for Sensationalizing and exaggeration of events obstruct their activities in the conflict prone areas. (International Crisis Group, 2021)

The negative media that influence public outlook will prevent talented employees from enrolling in the United Nations organization, as they are filled with misgivings and are unsure of the values of the organization (Scheff, 2017).

Moreover, the constant shaming and negative press caste over the proceedings of the United Nations organization is bound to undermine the many successes the organization has achieved or is set to achieve. This will demotivate and will weaken the work ethics of employees and the onlookers.

The United Nations Organizations has ventured into interacting with the public directly without the mediation of media stations. This is an efficient way to communicate the humanitarian nature of actuates undertaken by the United Nations Organization. Furthermore, awareness programs can be held globally to promote a favorable image of the UNO by making its successes known to the world.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The media plays a vital role in the society, particularly in the digital and information age we live in where Media remains to be ever so important. Nonetheless the constant greed and desire to attract viewers and readers has clouded media's judgment in the recent years. Moreover, media has a tendency to focus on the conflicts, disagreement and tense situations as opposed to the normal and constructive situations or events. For more views and more attention is garnered and guaranteed by articles and videos addressing the disputes or disagreements.

Surely, the media should highlight and bring to light the inefficiencies and malfunctions of the United Nations as an international organization, for it is something expected from the media by the general public, which is to receive true and reliable information from the source itself. ; However, the information should not be altered or edited with and must be collected from reliable and dependable sources.

The media undoubtedly has an important role to play in assisting the United Nations with achieving its goals

and targets. Thereby the media should address the United Nations mechanisms rationally and objectively, further should also provide equal airtime and platforms to address the successes as well as the failures experienced by the organization.

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