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ABSTRACT

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The Dynamics of Foreign Policy Making in Asia and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: Trends, Equations and Challenges

The nuclear weapons proliferation is a key challenge in Asia and for international security as a whole. Understanding the global and regional strategic environment became momentous with the recent nuclear tests done by North Korea. In this background, the study tries to identify and explain various trends of nuclear proliferation in Asia. North Korea and Iran manifested that the presence of technology denials, sanctions or NPT cannot terminate their nuclear weapons program. What makes countries to take such decisions? The study tries to understand the equations behind their motives. Except France, U.S. and the U.K. all the other nuclear weapons possessing states are present in Asia and the most vulnerable regions are the Middle East and South Asia. Arms race which includes both the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons, delivery systems and related technology is a significant issue that is bothering the credibility of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The study tries to identify the challenges faced by the NPT in the light of the trends and equations that are present in Asian proliferation crisis. The tentative conclusion of the study would be that the sense of insecurity in Asia is predominant due to the destabilizing foreign policy measures and lack of sustainable leadership for fostering complete nuclear disarmament which is necessary for better human development. The study is conducted by considering secondary sources like journals, books, periodicals and some primary sources like statements given by the officials of related countries in their government websites. The methodology is analytical and exploratory.

Key Words: Asian Proliferation Crisis, Foreign Policy, Nuclear Weapons, Non-Proliferation Treaty, Sustainable Leadership, Nuclear Disarmament.