

# The Clash of Doctrines: India-Pakistan A Comparative Study

Subirthana. M. S

Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, Madras Christian College, Chennai, India.

## Abstract:

The history behind India and Pakistan is vast and complicated which makes it difficult on both countries to live peacefully as neighbors. Starting with the independence of both the countries till date both countries have managed to hold up their animosity for each other in spite of various attempts taken towards a peaceful coexistence. Due to the hostile situation both countries forced into the nuclear era for survival entered the arms race and have managed to write up their own foreign policy against each other. However, the most interesting part is that being enemies both countries take a similar stand against each other- Deterrence.

*Key words:* foreign policy, deterrence, nuclear weapons, nuclear race.

## Introduction

Ever since India and Pakistan became two separate nations in the year 1947, they have maintained a step brotherly relationship. The animosity between these two nations is world known. Although culturally and linguistically almost the same these two countries fail to reconcile time and again. Each side blaming one another the animosity continues even today. Almost seventy years later India and Pakistan still remain enemies with no significant development. Peace does not exist on either side whatsoever. Each nation on its own terms have however gone extremes in developing their foreign policy.

India claiming to be a friendly nation surrounds its foreign policy around peace and mutual coexistence. Being a follower of The Father of The Nation, the great Mahatma Gandhi, India always keeps in mind that it needs to keep ahimsa as its key ingredient. Thus, it helps India from running into a nuclear arms race with its adversaries. (Sethi) India's nuclear doctrine is built for the purpose of deterrence. India also tries to improvise the situation with Pakistan through political and military talks.

## Objectives of the study

- To analyze the history behind India and Pakistan's foreign policies
- To study the details of india and Pakistan's look into the nuclear race
- To analyze and compare the various policies india and Pakistan have made over the years

## Methodology

The study adopts a descriptive-analytical method. It is diagnostic and non-experimental in scope of analysis. Given the scope of the issue, the study explored the secondary sources identifying the major categories of India's nuclear policy literature and defense policy literature which was available in the forms of books, articles, monographs, book reviews and reports.

Various talks have been initiated between the nations for peaceful co-existence. However, everything has been a failure. With the recent change in regime in India in the year 2014 talks have been again initiated to promote peaceful existence of both countries. Even though it was successful at first it went downhill with the attack on two military base in India by Pakistan. The first attack was in Pathankot in 2016 followed by Uri attack in the same year. After this any attempt to develop a friendly relationship between

both countries was unworkable. With both sides blaming each other for their actions it has become a very troubled environment.

If one has to understand the situation a complete analysis of the past is crucial. The complexity of the issue is as simple as the history of both countries. With the two-nation theory coming into reality developed a hostile situation between both nations. Starting here it has always been a competitive environment between both of them. Although India denies these claims it is very evident that its very close to the truth. On Pakistanis side however they have accepted the claim that achieving better than India has always been their priority.

According to certain sources India's nuclear program as an idea was very much existing since pre-independence days. However, under the leadership of Nehru keeping his "peaceful Nuclear Program" in mind it started getting shape only in the 1950's and 1960's. (Latif)

The Indian Nuclear Doctrine started getting its shape since the 1950's. However, the Chinese war in 1962 is a main reason for the fast development of the doctrine. Every country has a foreign policy doctrine. However, a nuclear policy doctrine is very important as this is the doctrine that talks specifically for the nuclear situation a country could face. In case of failure of deterrence then the doctrine is the one that protects the nation. India also gives great importance towards developing its nuclear front keeping permanent membership to the United Nations in mind. India realized that a nation powerful in its nuclear front is key to becoming a permanent member in the UNO.

India gave its draft nuclear doctrine in the year 1999 while Pakistan is yet to release one of its own. If any is to be released from Pakistan's side its definitely going to be one that challenges India. However, over time enough is available on Pakistan's idea regarding its nuclear policy through its military personnel. The Indian nuclear doctrine draft is a declaratory draft. It focuses on the guidelines it has given for the development of its nuclear weapons and use of its nuclear arsenal. From this it is clear that India's primary focus is on the development of its nuclear front for its own benefit. Thus, India will be focusing on the development of its arsenal on all three fronts, land based ballistic missiles, sea based and air borne.

There are other areas that have been mentioned too in the draft. It mentions the deterrence policy of India. This is mentioned as the fundamental use of Indias nuclear weapons. India will use its nuclear weapons to deter the use of threat of another nation from using it against India as mentioned in the draft. Another aspect of this is that not only will India use nuclear weapons against nations that try to use it but it will not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear nations. This is a very important aspect of the Indian nuclear doctrine draft. Next, India will not initiate a nuclear strike. India will only use nuclear weapons as a retaliation move but will not initiate a strike against any nation under any circumstance.

Next on the draft India will take credible minimum deterrence as its stand. Any attempt by India to use nuclear weapons will be only as a disciplinary action against its attacker. Also, the control and decision-making power over the use of nuclear weapons will be in the hands of the highest political order.

As a clash to the Indian doctrine the Pakistani doctrine has only one as its aim, to counter India. The Pakistani nuclear doctrine is India centric. It revolves around India. Pakistan will keep enduring against indias as long as it has enough to challenge against India. Pakistan also focuses highly on its nuclear deterrence policy. Incase of failure of deterrence then it will use conventional methods. Pakistan will not be lured into a nuclear arms race also Pakistan will develop a second-strike capability. However, Pakistan does not express anything against "no first use" policy.

Thus, it is very apparent that India's nuclear doctrine although focusing on the Pakistani angle also gives a lot of focus towards developing for its own benefit. On the other hand, Pakistan claims its primary and major aim through its nuclear doctrine is towards India. Although both countries have developed a lot over the years in the nuclear arena it is no secret that both countries have been in a continuous

competition for years. The development of one nation over the other becomes an immediate threat to the other.

### References

Latif, Amir. A comparative study of nuclear doctrine of India and Pakistan.

[http://jgpcnet.com/journals/jgpc/Vol\\_2\\_No\\_1\\_June\\_2014/7.pdf](http://jgpcnet.com/journals/jgpc/Vol_2_No_1_June_2014/7.pdf)

Kulkarni Tanvi and Sinha Alankrita. India's credible minimum deterrence A decade later. Published on 2011.

[http://www.ipcs.org/pdf\\_file/issue/IB179-NSP-AlankritaTanvi.pdf](http://www.ipcs.org/pdf_file/issue/IB179-NSP-AlankritaTanvi.pdf)

Jaishankar Dhruva. The case for India's nuclear weapons. Published on 7 September 2013.

<http://www.dhruvajaishankar.com/2013/09/the-case-for-indias-nuclear-weapons.html>

Sethi, Manpreet. Pakistan's Nuclear Posturing and India's Nuclear Doctrine.

[http://www.claws.in/images/journals\\_doc/717038032\\_ManpreetSethi.pdf](http://www.claws.in/images/journals_doc/717038032_ManpreetSethi.pdf)

