

# Intra-state and Inter-state Conflict in south Asia: Indian Scenario.

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## Abstract

Intra-state conflict since the end of the Cold War, the global pattern of conflict has shifted from intra-state to inter-state conflicts. There is no state in South Asia, perhaps with the exception of Maldives, which is free from such violent conflicts. South Asian countries are beset with a variety of intra-state conflicts that often develop into interstate conflicts due to ethno-religious overlapping across geographically contiguous or too close frontiers. Although it has been decades since the creation of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), regional integration in South Asia is still a long distance from priority for South Asian countries. The change in the world political scenario and recent developments in South Asia make it pertinent to re-look at the case of integration in South Asia. The study deals with the Regional Conflict and the factors that make an impediment effect on the Regional integration in the region. The study also looks at regional integration arrangements in other parts of the world to identify key lessons for South Asia. The study emphasizes the need for a fresh look at the relevance of integration in the region. It also emphasizes the need to invigorate the SAARC so that it can meaningfully lead a multilateral process of regional integration in South Asia. The study is mainly focused upon India and Pakistan; the largest of the South Asian States have the largest number of such conflicts. In India, Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeastern region are in deep turmoil for a long time.

**Key words:** South Asia, Regional cooperation, Interstate Conflict, Regional disorder, SAARC, Peace.

## Introduction

*“Today, peace means the ascent from simple coexistence to cooperation and common creativity among countries and nations.”* (Mikhail Gorbachev)

South Asia hosts almost a quarter of the world’s population. Despite achieving consistent economic growth, the region is marked by dense poverty and human deprivation. South Asia is about the same size as Europe but has a population that is twice as large. The region is in a geopolitically key position because of its unresolved border lines and sea links with the Middle East, Central Asia, East Asia and South Asia. As a result, South Asia is very influential with regard to international politics and economic activities. Countries in this region have many religions, ethnic groups, cultures and languages, disparities among them, making

South Asia a region with sources of instability that include Border Disputes, Intra-state conflicts that creates regional disorder and some other problems in the region.<sup>1</sup>

The fact is that every one of these conflicts have been caused because of the denial of fundamental rights and aspirations of and discrimination against the people who happen to be in minority and have either been underestimated or avoided from the country – building. An absence of regard for the personality, avoidance from the standard and minimization of certain religious and ethnic networks, standings, ethnic and poor people, caused a reaction among the arranged and disfranchised individuals that took an exclusivist frame to oppose the forcible assimilation and coordination.

The Interstate conflicts, doubts and contrasts among the states of South Asia, such as between India and Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka and India and Bangladesh, urged the particular states to use, with shifting degrees, the intrastate clashes and contrasts of the enemy further bolstering their good fortune. In this way the Intra-state clashes becomes the weapons in the hands of the several South Asian nations and the interstate conflict have become a battle field for these Countries to utilize their weapons.

These conflicts have had not just twisted the entire procedure of nation building, Socio-economic improvement, but have additionally hindered development, increased incidence of poverty and caused the miseries to the common people. The rare assets have progressively been redirected to military security at the cost of human security. No less annihilation is caused to the earth, ecology and culture of the indigenous people.<sup>2</sup>

### **Objectives**

1. To identify the impact of Regional conflict on the people of the South Asian Region.
2. To study and analyze the interstate and intra-state conflict in the South Asian region.
3. The study seeks to provide solutions to arrive at a peaceful settlement of Regional disorder in South Asia.

### **Methodology**

Historical- descriptive method has been used in this research paper. The paper deals with the study of relevant secondary source material published by the governments of South Asian Nations. This research study also has drawn material from the documents among SAARC Nations. The main materials that are used through secondary source are- books, articles, published journals and others have been extensively consulted.

## Sources of Data

Primary and secondary source of data has been utilized for this paper .Primary sources include Government documents such as treaties and agreements signed by both the countries, official publications and interviews given by leaders of all the South Asian countries. Books, journals, Articles, and other published materials pertaining to the study from secondary sources of data.

## Statement of the problem

South Asia has been one of the Heaven of human civilization, where lives a quarter of the human race. This region is passing through a difficult situation - has been the ground for conflicts and struggles of a large mass of humanity. South Asia is a conflict prone region subject to continuous political tensions. The worst was the trauma of events, which accompanied partition of India where the bulk of South Asia lived. Even today the specter of internal conflicts and cross border terrorism that looms on the horizon and difficulties are thus created between the countries of the region assuming new and complex forms. External forces are also impinging upon the region in ever more powerful ways. Interaction between the two trends is making each more pretensions. At the same time, the countries of the region are also making the efforts towards regional co-operation, enduring South Asia's dubious distinction that it was hitherto the only area of such size and importance to be without any regional institutions.

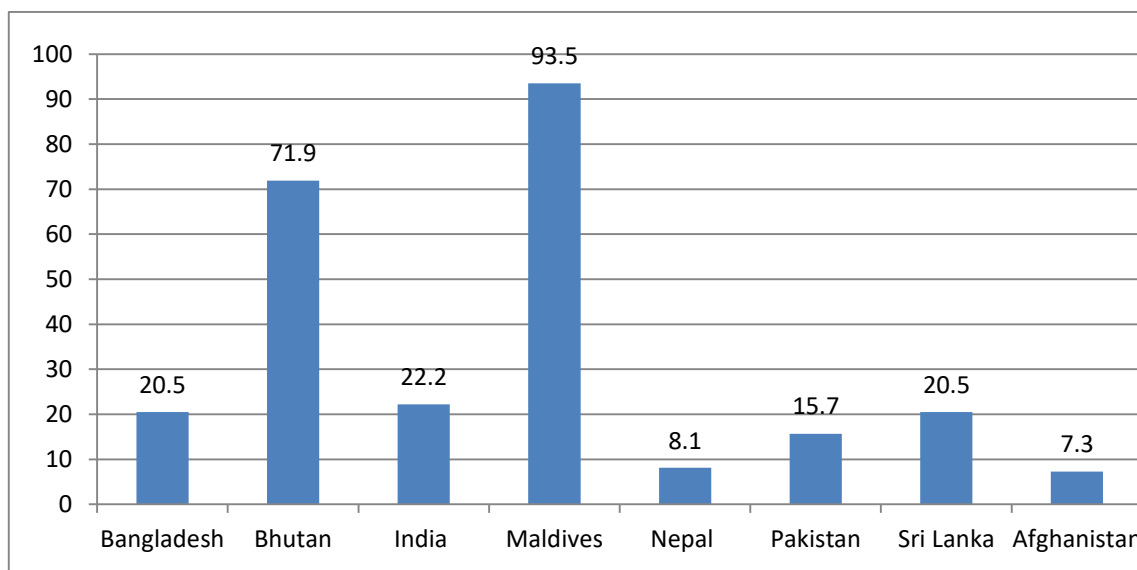
## Conflict in South Asia

South Asia is a conflict prone region subject to continuous political tensions. India, by far the largest country, and geographically centrally located, has developed differences with most of its smaller neighbors. Tensions have tended to recur periodically and have not allowed an atmosphere of mutual trust to prevail. Reflecting these tensions, an ongoing EU report rates political hazard with regards to exchange interest in South Asia. The report just demonstrates the two littlest SAARC individuals, Maldives and Bhutan, as exceedingly steady. Every single other state is viewed as delicate, with the normal dependability esteems falling great beneath the worldwide normal.

An aspect of note is the means by which internal instability and outer strains and Clashes feed off one another to make a cycle of political and economic instability. On account of India and Pakistan the procedure is unstable, mixed by brief times of peace. This was historically valid in Sri Lanka and India's case, in spite of the fact that the savagery seems to have built up an inward energy and has turned out to be more managed. Inherently, the nexus of intra and between state clashes has deferred inner economic and political changes, and slowed down regional economic integration. The present outline of contention in the area, concentrating on the post-SAARC period when South Asian nations were endeavoring endeavors to improve territorial exchanging game plans. Note that every reciprocal clash amid this period have been

Indo-centric, reflecting to huge degree India's domineering yearnings, supported by its military matchless quality in the area.

Figure1: Political Stability



Note: Higher values imply better ratings

Source: *Governance Matters: Governance Indicators for 1996-2002*, World Bank, 2003.

### Internal conflict in India

There are three main sources of interior clashes in India. First, there is long-running separatist movement in several north-eastern states (Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura); these states have been classified "lagging" for the purposes behind this report. The uprising in Assam started in 1979, with the formation of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) aimed at establishing "sovereign, socialist Assam." ULFA's targets include businessmen, government security forces, and infrastructure facilities such as oil pipelines, freight trains and government buildings. Since 2005, ULFA has been in a process of indirect negotiations with the government via a People's Consultative Group; however, they continue their campaign of violence, and did not respond to a unilateral ceasefire announced by the government in 2006.<sup>3</sup>

The insurgency in Manipur is likewise a long standing one, start with the arrangement of the United National liberation Front (UNLF) in 1964 which has independence for Manipur as its goal.<sup>4</sup> from that point forward; various other violent groups upheld a similar reason. There are also several other militants claiming to represent the interests of particular ethnic group. The goal of these groups is to accomplish autonomous state for the Hmar people. None of these groups have indicated much enthusiasm for arrangements with the government.

In Nagaland and Tripura, the level of violence has descended generously in the recent years, thanks to negotiations between the government and the militant groups. A ceasefire has been in place between the government and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland—Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) since 1997, and

with the NSCN Khaplang since 2004; both these groups aim at establishing a “greater Nagaland.” However, these groups continue to have conflicts with one another and with other activist gatherings in Nagaland and in Manipur. In Tripura, solid police activity brought about countless from the units of the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) amid 2003 and 2004, and the legislature marked an agreement with the NLFT-Nayanbashi group in December 2004.

The second source of internal violence in India originates from episodes executed by leftwing radical gatherings ("Naxalite" developments) in numerous conditions of India. This has been distinguished by Head administrator Manmohan Singh as "the single greatest security test to the Indian state."<sup>5</sup> The cause of these fierce developments is regularly credited to a 1967 worker uprising in West Bengal, when laborers assaulted the neighborhood proprietors in the town of Naxalbari. The legislature reacted with an overwhelming utilization of power, and the development chipped into various fanatic groups in the 1970s. In 1980, the development of the General Peoples War Group (PWG) in Andhra Pradesh denoted the restoration of left-wing rough developments. The land spread of such gatherings has been ascending as of late: in 2007, 194 locale in 18 states were influenced by left-wing extremism, up from 165 regions in 14 states in 2005.<sup>6</sup> Remaining wing bunches were particularly dynamic in the slacking conditions of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal, and the main conditions of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The main extremism group is the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist), framed by the merger of the people's War Groups with the Maoist Communist Center (MCC) in 2004.<sup>7</sup> This group has an expressly Maoist philosophy, focused on a "majority rule transformation" to be accomplished by an "extended individuals' war with the equipped seizure of intensity staying as its focal and primary task."<sup>11</sup> practically speaking, arrive redistribution has all the earmarks of being one of the principle objectives; this was one of the issues which couldn't be settled in the fizzled peace talks between the Andhra Pradesh government and the PWG in 2004.<sup>8</sup> The expanded capacity of the consolidated association is one potential clarification for the sharp ascent in inside brutality in 2005. We should note, nonetheless, that the patterns vary fundamentally crosswise over states: Andhra Pradesh and Bihar demonstrate a decrease in Naxalite viciousness in 2006 and 2007, while such violence is on the ascent in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa.

The third source of increasing violence in India stems from incidents of terrorism in India's cities. Such incidents, typically the use of bombs in crowded locations, have been on the rise. In recent years, there have been several instances of multiple coordinated bomb blasts in India's cities. These include the seven explosions in Mumbai's trains in July 2006, the twin bomb blasts in Hyderabad in August 2007, and most recently, the series of bomb blasts in Jaipur, Bangalore and Ahmedabad in 2008. Many of these attacks are suspected to be orchestrated by fundamentalist Islamic groups, such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).<sup>12</sup> The urban focus of these groups



stands in contrast to the separatist movements and left-wing extremism described earlier, which are concentrated in rural areas.<sup>10</sup>

In addition to these sources of internal conflict, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) also reported 761 incidents and 99 deaths resulting from communal violence in 2007. These clashes are mostly on a religious basis e.g. riots between Hindus and Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, or attacks against Christians.<sup>9</sup> Data from the National Bureau of Crime Records shows that the incidence of riots (communal or otherwise) shows a declining trend in the past decade, in stark contrast to the trends in terrorist violence. This is an important finding, because it means that the recent increase in conflict cannot be attributed to a general decline in law and order or an overall deterioration of state capacity. In particular, it suggests that events outside the country or region might have played a role in increasing the incidence of conflict in South Asia. One such potential factor is the growing global reach of terrorist organizations, demonstrated most tragically in the events of September 11, 2001.

## **Bilateral Conflicts and Tensions in South Asia**

### **India and Pakistan**

Relations between India and Pakistan, the two biggest states in the region, embody the permanent regional instability, and to which these countries have contributed in large measure. The two states have been locked in perpetual conflict – either overt or covert, since they gained independence in 1947, constituting the single largest constraint to regional economic integration.<sup>10</sup> The early piece of the 1980s was set apart by torpid instead of dynamic clash. Having lost a conclusive war to India in 1971 that brought about the partition of Bangladesh from Pakistan, Pakistan took a more quieted, perhaps practical position on Kashmir, enabling the two nations to address monetary and exchange issues. Discourses, in the end, prompted the making of SAARC in 1985. However, the hidden tenacity, mirroring the recorded, religious and military elements, prompted a critical weakening in relations by the late 1980s. The Kashmiri separatist movement picked gained momentum in Indian Kashmir in the late-1980s. Soon after, Pakistan began giving political and military help to the insurgents. Such help kept the opposite sides at loggerheads all through the 1990s. India persistently pointed the finger at Pakistan for the turmoil in Kashmir, blaming it for training and sending cadres to join the insurgency.<sup>11</sup>

The security concerns between Pakistan and India crested in 1998, when the two sides tested atomic weapons, introducing a highly unstable dimension to the security paradigm. In 1999, Pakistan and India were embroiled in an armed confrontation in the Kargil region of Kashmir. Although the conflict ended in a stalemate, Kargil marked the first conflict between two nuclear-armed neighbours and brought many to realize the potential for a nuclear catastrophe. Tensions reached a new high in 2002 when India blamed Pakistan for having engineered a terrorist attack on the Indian parliament. The two sides found themselves

in the midst of a ten-month long stand-off, with a million troops amassed on the Indo-Pakistan border, making this the largest military mobilization in the region's history. Given intense international pressure, a détente was finally reached before the conflict escalated.<sup>12</sup>

In the midst of continuing tensions, Pakistan and India India have made several attempts to initiate a peace process geared towards settling their disputes. Major initiatives were undertaken preceding the Kargil War in 1999, when the two sides signed the "Lahore Declaration", and in 2001 when the Pakistani President Parvez Musharraf made an unsuccessful attempt at initiating a peace bid (Bose 2001). The peace procedure is the most recent endeavor by the opposite sides to look for rapprochement. While the present exertion has kept going longer than going before activities, overall, Indo-Pakistan pressures still stay high. The profound established doubt between the opposite sides is unaltered and major extraordinary issues stay uncertain. Regardless of whether the present peace offer were to remain on track, it would take a very long time before Pakistan and India start to confide in one another.

### **India and Sri Lanka**

In the 1980s Sri Lanka gradually went under the hold of ethnic conflict between the larger part Sinhalese and minority Tamil separatists seeking independence of Northern Sri Lanka. India had a characteristic enthusiasm for the issue, given the sizable Tamil populace in Southern India. In the early schedule as 1983 India endeavored, but unsuccessfully, to intercede Sri Lanka's conflict.<sup>13</sup>

Ethnic violence in Sri Lanka prompted serious Indo-Sri Lankan strains as the Indian government sympathize started to feel for the Sri Lankan Tamils. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE), an aggressor equip, was purportedly financed by the Indian province of Tamil Nadu, a reality endured by the focal government in New Delhi (India 1995). In addition, in 1987, when the Sri Lankan government endeavored to recapture control of its northern domain through a financial barricade, India acted the hero of the Tamils. In July 1987, India chose to send the Indian Peace-keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka under an agreement that looked to incapacitate the Tamils and accomplish peace. The understanding brought on additional hatred among Sri Lankan Sinhalese who considered this to be an Indian endeavor to set up its authority over Sri Lanka. Relations among India and Sri Lanka achieved their nadir in 1989 when the Sri Lankan government requested the withdrawal of the IPKF.

Since the mid 1990s, while keeping up its enthusiasm for the Tamil development, India has ceased from interceding straightforwardly. It has additionally begun to formally bolster the Sri Lankan government's position. In addition, the opposite sides have hoped to upgrade collaboration in different parts, prompting a critical change in their relationship. While the Tamil dissenter development creates minor aggravations every once in a while, India appears to be really inspired by a serene inward answer for the

issue. All in all, Sri Lankan doubts of India's domineering outlines have diminished significantly, enabling relations between the two nations to wind up more welcoming.

### **India and Bangladesh**

In spite of the way that India supported East Pakistani separatists, who inevitably gained freedom for what is currently Bangladesh, relations between the two nations have wavered. In spite of the fact that the opposite sides wrote economic agreements and an every year inexhaustible settlement on the quarrelsome issue of water sharing, various concerns stay agitated. A general concern, which Bangladesh imparts to other SAARC individuals, is its doubt of India's journey for coordinate effect on its neighbours.<sup>14</sup>

In particular, in the early 1990s, India-Bangladesh relations weakened over a question concerning the Farakka Barrage, where India has constructed a feeder trench to redirect water to its side of the stream (McGregor 2000). Tensions surface irregularly as no changeless answer for major remarkable issues has been found. In 2001, India and Bangladesh wound up amidst a minor fringe showdown. The contention based on the debated outskirts region close Pyrdiwah village however stayed contained to the fringe powers on the two sides (Truce 2001). The river island of Muhurichar is additionally guaranteed by the two nations. Be that as it may, this issue has stayed lethargic since 1985. In the late 1980s, India tried to construct a fence on the Indo-Bangladesh international border to prevent unlawful workers from filling West Bengal. This issue has expected genuine extents in the ongoing past as the west-bound inundation has expanded (Bowring 2003). Of late, India has likewise blamed Bangladesh for being thoughtful towards Pakistan and going about as a conductor for anti India terrorist operations. Bangladesh, claims again, censures India for supporting anti Dhaka, Chakma insurgents.<sup>15</sup>

### **India and Nepal**

The Indo-Nepal relationship has also been fraught with tension although the two sides have not allowed their overall relationship to be held hostage to their differences. The Indo-Nepal equation is a classic example of big power-small power political maneuvering with the smaller power, Nepal, trying its utmost to retain an independent posture, despite being economically dependent on India. The bulk of the problems between the two sides are grounded in economic concerns.<sup>16</sup>

Indo-Nepal relations were very stressed when SAARC was framed. India had denied Nepal's offered to be pronounced a global security zone (Murthy 1999). Nepal's procurement of Chinese weaponry met with a solid authority challenge from the Indian government, stressed over losing its impact in Katmandu. In 1988, Nepal declined to suit Indian requests on the long-standing travel bargain between the two nations. Nepal adopted a hardliner strategy, and after the lapse of the bargain in 1989, confronted a financial



barricade from India, an improvement that prompted encourage heightening in Indo-Nepal strains (India 1995)

More recently, a mollifying strain in two-sided relations has risen. In spite of the fact that India and Nepal additionally have a remarkable regional question on a 75 square kilometer zone, the issue has not affected Indo-Nepal relations to any huge degree (International Boundary 1998). Since the mid 1990s, Nepal's declining monetary and political circumstance has constrained it to look for rapprochement with India. In 1990, the unique security connection between the two nations was reestablished and in the mid-1990s, new exchange and travel arrangements were marked alongside other financial understandings (Murthy 1999). India has additionally bolstered the Nepalese government in its battle against the progressing Maoist defiance in the nation, a reality that has additionally enhanced relations between the two nations.

<b>Interstate Conflict</b>				
Year	India-pakistan	India-SriLanka	IndiaBangladesh	India-Nepal
1985	Muhuricher Island Dispute			
1987		Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) Sent to Tamil Nadu to disarm Tamil		
1988				Tensions overdis-agreement ontransit treaty
1989		Withdrawal of IPKF demanded by SriLankan govt.		
1991		India boycottsSAARC Colombosummit		
1998				
1999	Kargil conflict in Indian held Kashmir			
2001	Terrorist attack on Indian parliamentblamed on Pakistan,leading to both countries amassing troops along the border		Pyrdiwah Village Border conflict	

Table 1: Chronology of major conflict in South Asia

### **Intra-state strife in South Asia**

In addition to the inter-state tensions that have plagued South Asia, countries in the region have also experienced extended intra-state strife. Further, as mentioned the two should not be viewed in isolation, as they feed off each other in dampening or expanding cycles.<sup>17</sup> With the exception of the Maldives and Bhutan, intra-state conflict has been almost endemic to other SAARC member states. India has long battled

the insurgency in Kashmir that was initiated by Kashmiri Muslims opposing New Delhi's rule. In addition, during the 1980s, India experienced a strong separatist movement, "Khalistan", in the state of Punjab. Resistance to Delhi's rule also exists in pockets based in Nagala East (Sahadevan 1999). Of these, the Kashmiri struggle is by far the most threatening, seriously affecting Indo-Pakistan relations.

Pakistan has had share of its internal conflicts. Since SAARC came into existence, the primary issues have been partisan in nature. Sunni-Shia savagery crested in the result of the Afghan jihad in the mid 1990s. In spite of the fact that conditions have enhanced, partisan brutality keeps on ejecting intermittently. As of late, the unbendable moderate arrangements of an armed force overwhelmed government have reignited the torpid patriot development in Balochistan (Hussaini 2005). The "Talibanization" of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), a substantial swathe of the NWFP, additionally reflects merging disdain against focal government disregard and its master US position.

The Sri Lankan ethnic conflict between the Sinhalese and Tamil separatists has just been talked about. The contention proceeds and in spite of various endeavors settled talks, including outsider intercession, most outstandingly by Norwegian government, no leap forward has been accomplished. While viciousness is irregular, it heightens occasionally, keeping the state insecure.

Since 1996, Nepal has been undermined by an efficient Maoist insubordination that is challenging the countries monarchy. (Thapa and Sijapati 2003). The disobedience is one of the central point in charge of the decay of the Nepalese economy. While activities to oblige the Maoist demands have been embraced, none have fulfilled the radicals. Consequently, the rebellion remains active and continues to threaten the center through constant targeting of state functionaries.

Bangladesh has had to mobilize counter insurgency operations against the Chakma extremists in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The territory has been very tempestuous previously, with the rebels demanding territorial self-governance from the inside. Except for irregular times of high pressures, the government has figured out how to contain the goals of the rebels. In 1999, a peace accord was marked between the Awami League government and the extremists under which expanded independence was to be given. In any case, hatred on the absence of execution of the agreement still exists. Therefore the objective of finding a lasting arrangement stays slippery (Chowdhury 2002).

Conflict in Afghanistan was a feature of life since King Zahir Shah was ousted in 1973. The Soviet Union attacked the nation in 1979 trying to help the Communist development in Afghanistan. Following ten long stretches of battling against the religious mujahideen, the Soviet armed force pulled back in 1989, abandoning a major store of arms and weapons. Civil war resulted among various ethnic civilian armies for quite a long while until the rise of the Taliban, a gathering of youthful warriors having a place with the Pashtun ethnic gathering and upholding an outrageous elucidation of Islam. The Taliban figured out how to

win a few military triumphs, and by 1997, were responsible for the greater part of the nation. They were at first invited for their job in setting up lawfulness, however developed disliked after some time for their fierce code of equity, and for authorizing amazingly strict principles upon the people, for example, shutting down the entirety of young ladies' schools, and prohibiting all types of amusement including music and kite-flying (Rashid, 2000). They likewise did abominations against minority ethnic gatherings in Afghanistan, (for example, the massacre of Hazaras in Mazar-I-Sharif in 1998), and gave asylum and assets to al-Qaeda and its pioneer Osama Bin Laden.<sup>18</sup>

Maldives and Bhutan have by and large remained free of internal strife. Maldives did however foil a coup attempt in 1988 with assistance from Indian paratroopers and naval forces (India 1995). It has also recently been confronting constitutional differences among political actors (European Commission 2005).

Year	Sri Lanka	India	Maldives	Pakistan
1983	Widespread anti-Tamil rioting following the deaths of soldiers in an LTTE ambush.			
1984		Prime Minister Indira Gandhi killed by Sikh body guards after ordering troops to flush out Sikh militants from Amritsar.		
1988			Attempted coup thwarted with the help of Indian commandos	
1990		Kashmiri movement gains momentum separatist		
1992		Hindu-Muslim riots in Ayodhya following the demolition of Babri Mosque		
1993	President Premadasa killed in LTTE bomb attack.			
1999				Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ousted in military coup led by General Pervez Musharraf.
2004				On-going Waziristan and Balochistan conflict

Chronology of major conflicts in South Asia

Source: SDPI in house completion Aug, 2006.

## Impact of internal Conflicts

Unfortunately, the impact of externally influenced political processes on intra-state conflict in South Asia has been negative. Such impacts, especially on account of Pakistan, delineate how expanded outside inclusion can result in dissimilar positions inside a country. From one perspective, the mainstream tip top invited US intercession, while those inside the lower classes influenced towards more moderate talk from religious quarters. Moreover, an officially debilitated state is additionally undermined because of an expansion in intrastate extremist activities. Correspondingly, expanded UN association in the Nepalese

emergency, confronting opposition from the Nepalese government, has additionally expanded the separation between the legislature of Nepal and the standard political gatherings, and the subjects of Nepal.

Interestingly, there have been internal movements from governments across South Asia to negotiate with local extremist outfits in attempts to mitigate intra-state conflict. While at one time, state actors were the only prominent figures in inter and-intra state politics, recent trends show several non-state actors as impacting the political landscape.<sup>19</sup> Recent dialogues between regional and extra regional actors in South Asia have involved militant groups, multi-lateral organizations (ADB – SAGQ) and other political and economic actors. Despite the fact that the procedures endeavor to envelop the requirements all things considered, the insignificant nearness of these gatherings have alleviated and undermined the effect that officially debilitated states can have on the socio-political condition inside which they work. While some South Asian countries have effectively arranged understandings and game plans with activist gatherings (India with the Khalistan development and Bangladesh with its innate pioneers), the sporadic repeat of viciousness all through the locale has brought up issues about the adequacy of the state in relieving struggle. Different on-screen characters have surrendered the state (Such as inborn pioneers in Afghanistan and Balochistan) and have picked to seek after their own particular motivation, independent of the contention and strain that may emerge, and notwithstanding of the advantages of agreeable arrangements<sup>2</sup>

One clarification for the disappointment of the state's drives for moderating inner clash is the way that state spending on the social part has been constrained for deficiency decreases and military spending. This creates a double military reimbursement as high military spending makes local strains while, intra-state, social issues stay uncertain in view of insufficient money related costs. Between state, as well, while outside impacts in South Asian governmental issues may have guaranteed nonattendance of fierce clash in the ongoing past, such impacts have not possessed the capacity to produce changeless answers for extraordinary issues, an intrinsically insecure circumstance which enables these contentions to recur.<sup>21</sup> Electing for discretion from an outsider as opposed to searching inwards for an answer additionally keeps the district from developing into a politically develop and independent political substance. In this way, SAARC nations make due with here and now strife alleviation as opposed to building up an enduring inward arrangement that wipes out the reason for the contention. The adequacy of outside procedures has its cutoff points, as question goals through intercession or under outsider weight can just anticipate strife, not resolve it. For strife to be settled for all time, and for long haul peace to be accomplished, question goals measures must be assembled and regulated by the SAARC countries themselves<sup>22</sup>

## Conclusion

Promoting regional integration in South Asia entails efforts in key areas such as infrastructure, trade facilitation, investment, governance and before that there is a dire need to resolve ethnic, religious and

internal conflicts which is the main issue in the region. The most critical element of the integration process in South Asia is building confidence and filling the huge trust deficit between the countries. Economic interests and the Geo-political strategic interests have the potential of uniting South Asian countries, sidelining political differences to pursue regional integration. With increased political will and commitment towards integration, greater efforts will have to be made towards integration. In this respect, India will have to take on proportionately greater responsibility while the other South Asian countries will have to commit to cooperation and openness. The Regional Organizations like the ASEAN, SAARC needs to assume a central role in creating conditions for deeper integration by promoting investment, trade, transparency, harmonizing standards and simplifying procedures through a multilateral process. Additionally, measures of soft diplomacy should be adequately utilized to mould public opinion to bring South Asians closer and create an understanding of the value of increasing regional integration and cooperation.<sup>23</sup> Agreements such as the SAFTA need to be made more meaningful with appropriate emphasis on non tariff barriers and strictly reduce the border barriers in the region. Ideas such as focusing on mutual understanding and cooperation need to be explored. Presently there is a dire need of the countries in the region to follow the single route, so that these routes will become a “dialogue routes” and a source of mutual non-interference, mutual benefit, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence of the whole of South Asia. However powerful a country may be, it cannot alone eliminate deeply-entrenched “Border Dispute” and “Regional Disorder” in the region. It is necessary to coordinate with all the regional, sub-regional and United Nations for this purpose.<sup>24</sup>

It can be concluded that South Asia cannot be said to have evolved into a complete region because the propensity toward conflict has always prevailed over the desire for peace and stability among the states comprising this geographical area. It is hoped that such trends would be zealously encouraged with the desire of imparting the long-eluded quality of 'region-ness' to South Asia in the not-so-distant future. It must still be hoped that, however complex, such solutions will ultimately be implemented in order to build an economically stronger and socio-politically more cohesive region called South Asia.

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