

**SIR CREEK: THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN
PAKISTAN AND INDIA**

Dr Rashid Khan

Abstract

The Sir Creek is one of the outstanding bilateral issues that Pakistan and India are trying to resolve under the ongoing composite dialogue process. The issue has not only important security dimensions, it also relates to the demarcation of maritime boundaries of the two countries in the Arabian Sea for determining the parameters of each other's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). Since, both countries, as signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS), are under obligation to deposit their baseline coordinates with the United Nations by the end of the current year so that their claims could be sorted out by 2009, they have been engaged in serious negotiations to reconcile their conflicting views on the position of 60-mile long water channel of River Indus that forms a common border between the two countries before falling into the Arabian Sea. Although final agreement has not yet been reached on this issue, the two countries have managed to make significant progress towards narrowing down mutual differences on the dispute. As a result, Sir Creek holds bright prospects of an early settlement.

**REGIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME (RNR)
A NEW APPROACH TO INTEGRATING DE FACTO NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES
INTO THE INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME:
THE CASE OF SOUTH ASIA**

Adil Sultan

Abstract

The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) despite being discriminatory in nature has been able to prevent a "proliferation chaos" over the last many decades. International community's reluctance to address the problem of the three NPT outsiders coupled with new developments of making country-specific exceptions have started to unravel the global non-proliferation regime. Unless the regime is made universal by bringing non-NPT Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) under some treaty obligations, there would always remain a possibility of more threshold states shedding away their NPT obligations for a de facto nuclear weapon status.

To address the non-NPT NWS dilemma, at least two of the three de facto NWS i.e. India and Pakistan could be encouraged to accept non-proliferation obligations at the regional level, on the pattern of the NPT. Such an arrangement could be termed as Regional Non-proliferation Regime (RNR), which could reduce the incentives for any future nuclear threshold states to shed their NPT obligations. However, such an arrangement would only be possible through formal recognition of both India and Pakistan as NWS, which would eventually pave the way for civil nuclear trade with other members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

The international community has to consider whether non-proliferation objectives are best served by excluding de facto NWS or by integrating these into the mainstream nuclear regime.

**MARITIME SECURITY INTERESTS OF PAKISTAN:
A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Dr Noor ul Haq

Abstract

From 18th century onwards, those European nations, which became powerful at sea, colonised most of the world. Of them, the Great Britain, mainly owing to its naval superiority over other European powers, established its supremacy in South Asian subcontinent. After its withdrawal from the subcontinent, Pakistan emerged as an independent nation in a strategic location. As an important regional player, it is imperative for Pakistan to have a maritime security policy, maritime awareness, maritime knowledge, coastal industries, ports, and modern naval, merchant and fishing fleets and indigenous capability to develop them. Enormous maritime resources are required to be explored and exploited. Since the trade and energy supply of most of the Indian Ocean littoral states is mainly seaborne, the sea lines of communication are the lifelines of these countries. To have a credible national and regional maritime security policy, Pakistan should have a three-pronged strategy: the development and security of own ocean resources, industries, and sea-lanes; achieving synergy amongst navies of all littoral states of Indian Ocean; and, coordination with the industrially advanced and developed maritime powers of the world.

EAST ASIA SUMMIT AND PAKISTAN'S QUEST FOR NEW REGIONALISM

Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik

Abstract

East Asia has been flooded with a number of regional organisations with overlapping objectives and interests. Yet they helped integrating the region in many ways by reducing conflicts and building peace and gearing up toward economic development and integration. The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a new regional grouping in East Asia that came into being in December 2005 at the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. In fact, former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad propounded the idea on which the foundation of EAS was laid down along with some modifications that slightly diluted the flavour of being "Eastern" and "Asian". Nevertheless, EAS is an encouraging step toward greater Pan-Asian and Pan-Eastern integration that would eventually end up in framing an East Asian Community (EAC) in the future. To achieve this end, the process has already been started with the formation of EAS. Historically, Pakistan has long been associated with East Asian regionalism both in terms of strategic collaboration and economic integration, which is evident in Pakistan's membership of various East Asian regional organisations. Similarly, Pakistan is keenly desirous of obtaining a membership status on the EAS along with Papua New Guinea, and Mongolia. For this purpose, Pakistan is pumping up its case for assuming a Full Dialogue Membership on the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), a pre-condition to become a member of EAS.

THE FUTURE OF INDIA-PAKISTAN PEACE PROCESS AMID THE WAR ON TERROR IN AFGHANISTAN

Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad

Abstract

The renewed significance that South Asia gained in world politics since the terrorist events of 11 September 2001 in the United States has reinforced the urgency of securing peace between India and Pakistan. The issue of peace in the region depends primarily on what happens in their mutual relationship. The two countries have indeed pursued a vibrant peace process since January 2004, resulting in significant Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs). However, they have not yet achieved any meaningful progress in resolving core disputes such as Kashmir. On the war on terror in the region as well as the future of Afghanistan, India and Pakistan continue to pursue conflicting interests. While Pakistan has offered specific new proposals on Kashmir, India has used the war on terror to shift the international focus from self-determination to terrorism vis-à-vis Kashmir. Recurrent allegations by the Afghan government regarding terrorists' infiltration from Pakistan's tribal regions bordering Afghanistan are also perceived in Pakistan as partly motivated by India's growing influence over the Afghan government.

THE GENESIS OF CHANGE AND MODERNISATION IN FEDERALLY ADMINISTERED TRIBAL AREAS (FATA) OF PAKISTAN

Dr Fazal-ur-Rahim Marwat

Abstract

An attempt has been made to examine the causes of change and modernisation in the tribal areas of Pakistan. It explains the paradigm shift in the behaviour of local mullahs and maliks (chiefs) by using local traditional institutions, like mosque and madrassa, for political ends in the changing political crosscurrents in and around Pakistan. The study also explores the impact of the Afghan situation and Iranian revolution and the modern technological means and methods, on the men and movements in the backward area. The overall theme is to show that the centuries old status quo has been challenged by the new forces and the colonial administrative structures are eroding under the changing regional and global realities. In conclusion, it recommends proposals for bringing positive change and development in the tribal areas.

EVOLVING UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARDS THE CASPIAN REGION: A DELICATE BALANCE

Azeem Ibrahim

Abstract

Recent events in the proximity of the Caspian region, not least the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the campaign against al Qaeda, have enhanced the importance of this part of the world to the United

States. Once seen as a remote backwater, it is now a crucial arena for the foreign policy manoeuvrings, not only of the US but of other regional and international players, notably Russia, China and Iran. Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and in particular the escalation in international terror after 11 September 2001, the power balance between these states has been in flux, and America's Caspian policy has had to evolve to cope with these changes. This paper considers how the US engagement with the Caspian region has developed, how America currently perceives the region, and what drives American policy towards the region.