

# **Decolonized Arms Control and Disarmament in South Asia**

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## **Abstract**

This paper studies the theoretical and practical outline of decolonizing arms control and disarmament in South Asia. It conquers that mainstream, West -centric models of arms control ineffectively address the historical, political, and epistemic specificity of the region. Building on decolonial theory and regional security studies, the paper outlines a framework that centers native security narratives, historical experiences of colonialism and symmetric power relations among state and external actors. The evaluation focuses on three arenas: nuclear arms and principals, conventional force stances along disputed borders, and multilateral regimes and norms. Depiction on policy literature and current regional analysis, the paper suggests a set of politically programmatic and ethically landed policy measures-ranging from confidence-building measures and bilateral consulting bodies to plural, region-led normative initiative that inclusively aim to reduce insecurity while reorganizing local environment. The paper concludes with suggestions for scholars, policy makers, and civil society aimed at reformulating arms control as a decolonial practice in south Asia.

## **Keywords**

Arms control, South Asia Decolonization, nuclear Politics, Postcolonial Disarmament.

## **Introduction**

Arm control and disarmament remain important to Transnational (global) security yet their relevance in South Asia, a region marked by nuclear proliferation, continuous conflict and deep skepticism between India and Pakistan presents a serious challenge. (Shouzad, 2018). Arms control and demilitarization discussion has conventionally been adopted by structures, foundations and normative dialects that appeared during the cold war and were concentrated within western multilateral institutions. While specialized and legal instruments developed in that space have tremendous value,

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their transplantation into south Asia without judgmental alteration risks producing policies that are ruthless to local histories strategic cultural and asymmetric power relations. South Asia's security landscape-marked by a legacy of colonial partition, enduring India-Pakistan hatred, a rising India-China strategic competition and significant external influences, requires an approach that interrogates the epistemic foundations of arms control itself. This paper develops the concept of decolonizing arms control: reorienting policy and learning towards ways that privilege region-specific histories, assimilate subaltern voices and redistribute agenda – setting power to regional actors and civil society. It also demands a fault finding rebuild of the foundation with the understanding, language, and goals of security policy to address the abiding impact of imperial rule (Connel, 2020).

## **1. Historical context: colonialism and the impost of western norms**

Colonialism, first and foremost accomplished by European powers from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, was a practice of domination and operation that constitutionally transmuted the Transnational (global) political, social, and economic landscape. Inspired by a search for resources, trade, national reputation, and a self – confessed “civilizing mission” colonial power forced their rule over vast territories in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. This process was never ending by an aggressive belief in western culture and racial superiority, which looked at a non-western society as “backward” or “civilized” and in need of external governance

### **1.1 The Inheritance of Imperialism in South Asia.**

Colonial rule considerably impacted South Asia by society's external control and breaking existing indigenous governance and security structure (Linstrum, 2019). Hannah Arendt in his essay “On non-violence (1969) has identified recurrent fear of western imperialism: view that “rule by violence in faraway lands would end by affecting the government of England where she argues that the control over South Asian regions heavily demanded on coercion, violence and legal, objections “that dangling ordinary law to overcome opposition and maintain colonial expert. (Arendt, 2020). The disruption of native systems by colonial power created power in equality and disputes persisted to these days. “According to Linstrum, the use of the colonial counter revolution strategy had an outstanding impact on the militarization of the police force. This militarization with the introduction of new forms of weapons modifies the dynamics of conflicts and control in the region. The long-standing limitation between the “zero of law and imperial violence” came under pressure during this period, further intensifying the region’s security environment. The preface of tear gas as a mechanism for social control demonstrates the interactive relationship between western powers and their colonies, originally used in colonies to fight riots and insurgencies, tear gas finally creates its way back in the British Isles, emphasizing the” boomerang effect “of imperial politics. (linstrum 2019).

## **1.2. Opposition to Colonialism and the Seeds of Non-Alignment**

Notwithstanding the imposition of western norms, South Asia leaders and movement actively opposed colonial rule and pursued to affirm their own fantasy for the region's futures. This opposition created a critical role in tailoring the elements of non-alignment and the pursuit of an independent foreign policy, Jawaharlal Nehru a primary outline in the Indian independence movement. Imagined word beyond imperialism – rooted in his adventures with anti- imperialist and anti-fascist mobilization. This anti- imperialist emotion influenced India's International Relations (I.R) and its functions in the non-alignment movement (Louro, 2020). Nevertheless, after the cold war the non-alignment movement has been required to review itself and redesign its ideas in the concurrent global system, after discovering that it has truly to play against the western supremacy neo- colonization in a unipolar world. (Mital, 2016).

## **2. The Cold War and its Effect on South Asia**

The period of cold war is marked as transnational (global) geopolitical rivalry (Ideological war) between the United States and the U.S.S.R (Soviet Union) essentially transformed South Asia from Post- Colonial region into a crucial player for indirect conflict and superpower strategic competition. The region is recognized by the U.S for its strategic location, manpower and natural resources which became a significant playhouse in the formation of rigid cold war alliances that aggravate (to make matters worse) existing the regional tension, exceptionally between India and Pakistan, Shaping their geo-political fight path for decades.

### **2.1. South Asia as a Playhouse of Superpower Competition**

The cold war brought a new scope to the security dynamics of South Asia as the region became a playhouse of Superpower Competition between the United States and the Soviet Union. Both superpowers pursued to accumulate leverage in the region by delivering military and economic support to various countries leading to an arms race and increased strains. The intimacy of external powers then sophisticated the already interacting security landscape of South Asia. The competition between the U.S and U.S.S.R had a major impact on regional powers in Asia. The cold war competition between the U.S and U.S.S.R had a major impact on regional Power in Asia, the Middle East and Europe despite their aerial position after 1945, the superpower looked (toward) objections from decolonization. Asian-Africa Internationalism and regional conflicts. These challenges restricted the superpowers' capability to control the course of events and shaped the dynamics of the cold world war in different regions (M. luthi,2020). Basically, the period of cold war significantly impacted south Asia, creating regional competition between India and Pakistan because of intervention of both the

superpower (US and USSR) and Arms sales.

## **2.2. The Nuclearization of the Region**

The cold war also contributed to the nuclearization of South Asia as both India and Pakistan tracked nuclear weapons programs in response to perceived threats and security dilemmas because both fear about their security and they are attempting to pursue national interest against challenges given by external conditions reasoned by the three aspects.

1. Reserved weaponry: These aspects stable the need to deter the Pakistani atomic risk under the suppression charge by stretching the NPT regime
2. Responsible weaponry: These aspects are stable between New Delhi search to maintain plausible deterrent on the one hand and as well as urge to get seated in the global nuclear order on the other.
3. Resurgence weaponry: This aspect is considering the ongoing aspects which is best on India recalibration of its security necessity against China and Pakistan (Jushi, 2022)

It means that the nuclearization of the region elevated stresses and increased the risk of conflict. Besides intensifying the view for arms control disarmament, the legacy of the cold war continues to shape the nuclear policies and stances of India and Pakistan.

India's nuclear journey can be derived as a function of its leader's capability to sew the country through civilian (non-military) means, especially tactics that shields an international institution in the 1970s. India sought and received support from supreme power against China making the accession of nuclear weapons less pressing nevertheless at the end of cold war these measures ceased to be possible leading to the development of a more lucid nuclear capability in the 1990s ( Kennedy , 2011).

## **2.3. The Non-Alignment Movement (N.A.M) and the Tracking of Disarmament**

In reaction to the cold war and the supremacy of the supreme powers many South Asian countries joined the NAM which advocated for an independent foreign policy and the tracking of disarmament. The NAM gave a podium for South Asian countries to declare their own interest and to publish a more impartial international organization. The principle of NAM continues to implement the foreign policy of many countries in the region.

Yugoslavia played an instrumental role in the formation of NAM with Josip Beoz Tito's strategic reorientation towards NAM shaping the principle of active peaceful co-existence, Tito's trip to India

and Burma in 1954 specially his confront with indies Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru created a crucial role in transfiguring those principles into a global initiative (Rajak, 2014), was a milestone in the development of N.A.M. The period of the cold war divided the world into two rival sides where the U.S side was western alliance and the USSR; the soviet side was the eastern bloc. Those countries who are newly independent in Asia and Africa are pursuing the third way one would protect their sovereignty and avoid the non-colonial supremacy and by NAM they can promote peace and development.

The NAM delivered a stage for third world leaders to declare their choice and oppose supremacy by more powerful central actors. (Acharya, 2011) where Acharya states that NAM provided recently independent countries of the global South route to map their own program in global politics free from supreme powers and to sit together against tension of supremacy.

### **3. Nuclear Proliferation and Disarmament South Asia**

Nuclear proliferation in simple terms means briskly increasing the number or amount of something. Nuclear proliferation consists of two types.

1. Horizontal Proliferation
2. Vertical Proliferation

- Horizontal Proliferation means nation state/non-state actors do not possess nuclear weapons rather they are gaining nuclear weapons or developing the competence and material for producing them.
- Vertical Proliferation means nation-states that have nuclear weapons are increasing their accumulate of these weapons, developing the technical Composure or authenticity of their weapon /developing now weapons at the same time nuclear disarmament refers to the process of abbreviating or dispose of nuclear weapons to promote Transnational (Global) security and prevent the possible cataclysmic Consequences of nuclear welfare. It encircles several efforts aimed at controlling and basically abandoning nuclear arsenals, with the end goal of achieving a nuclear-free world.

#### **3.1 Regional Disputes and Ammunition Dilemmas**

South Asia continues to be afflicted by regional conflicts and security dilemmas, which advise vital challenges to arms control and disarmament efforts. The operating disputes over Kashmir and other

territorial issues have generated an arms race between India and Pakistan, making it difficult to attain advance in arms control. The propinquity of non-state actors and the menace of terrorism further difficult the security topography of the region. The condition in Kashmir has been a major source of tension between India and Pakistan, obstructing efforts to promote regional peace and security, and also the conflicts has led to increased military paying elevated risk of amplification and making it difficult to achieve progress in arms Control and disarmament. The intimacy of external actors and the complicated political dynamics of the region further intensify the situation (Ganguly and Bajpai, 1994). This leads to the involvement of the external Powers, whose external powers continue to play a vital role in South Asia both as distributors of arms and as middlemen in regional conflicts/disputes. The intimacy of this power can have both positive and negative effects on arm control and disarmament effort, basing on their encouragement and precedence. It is significant for South Asian Countries to meticulously handle their relationship with external powers in order to publicize their own security interests. Africa has long been a deliberate frontier to the world in both economic and political, but there has been a continual stream of ideas and goods, between Africa, Europe, Asia and America, and South Asia and also has been impressed by external powers, with their intimacy shaping the region's political and security dynamics. ("Africa in International Politics" 2004).

### **3.2 Security Operator of Nuclear Proliferation**

The strategic rationale propelling nuclear proliferation in South Asia is hammered by a complicated give-and-take of security commerce/concerns, allies' dynamics. and regional conflict Monteiro and Debs, strategic theory postulate that nuclear armament requires both eagerness and opportunity unforeseen on conceivable threats and inadequate protection by allies ("Monteiro and Debs 2014). In the case of South Asian, both the countries India and Pakistan have anticipated dignified threats from each other and from weakening regional conditions inflaming their respective nuclear weapons programs.

### **4. Towards a Decolonized Approach to Arms Control and Disarmament**

Transcend the traditional appraisal of colonial science, the sketch of decolonization must also address Transnational (Global) governance structures including arms control and disarmament. Traditional approaches to Arms Control and Disarmament are deep-rooted in the same Eurocentric principles of universalism and state-centric security that explain the colonial era. An addiction or unhealthy need or craving for something based on established international norms and statecraft has, at times, led Scholarly communities - such as those in traditional security studies - to keep-going "Old Myth" and avoid scrutinizing how these norms confirm dominant structure. A decolonized approach reflects the

notion of "position-less science" and demands a shift from universalist policies, which often fail to safeguard the interest of marginalized groups, towards a framework of pluri-versalism. In-the-end, decolonizing Arms Control and Disarmament require deconstruct the Intellectual hierarchies that precedence the security interests of erstwhile colonial powers over the sovereignty and lived expertise of the colonized, by that mean ingrained principles of respect, give-and-take, and self-determination into global security praxis.

#### **4.1 Reclaiming Agency and Indigenous Knowledge**

A decolonized route to Arms Control and disarmament in South Asia requires reclaiming agency and understanding the value of native knowledge and practices. This means moving away from the imposition of western norms and principles and rather developing routes that are customized to the precise context of the region. It also means empowering local communities and civil society organizations to play a greater role in shaping arms control policies.

The discipline of International Relation (IR) often marginalizes the voices and experiences of societies and states outside the core countries of the west. Thus, Acharya said that the IR community is Complicit in the marginalization of the post-colonial world in developing the discipline. Where he posed a few questions.

- Why do we view the Cold War as a long pear? Acharya, 2014)
- Millions During the period of cold war thousands of lives lost in the battle which took place outside Europe, in the so called Third World? (Acharya, 2014).

A "Global IR" approach seeks to exceed the divide between the west and the rest by committing to pluralistic universalism, grounding theory in history and integrating the study of regions and regionalisms into the central Concerns, (Acharya, 2014). This route helps reclaim agency and recognize the value of distinctive viewpoints in arms control and disarmament efforts.

The article "The west and the Rest: A civilizational Mantra in Arms Control and Disarmament" basically talks about the how civilizational discussion structuring the world as " Civilized" vs. "barbaric", means "west" vs "Rest" (R. Mathur,2014) Mathur argues that where arms control and disarmament are not neutral, but are profoundly Knotted with civilizational bombast. This article presents the west as a civilized/Rational, responsible, and authorized weapon, while depicting non-western societies as irrational, dangerous and unfit to possess them. This structure helped nourish western military arrogance while marginalizing calls for Equality and justice from the Global South.

## 4.2. Norm Subsidiarity and Regional Rule Making

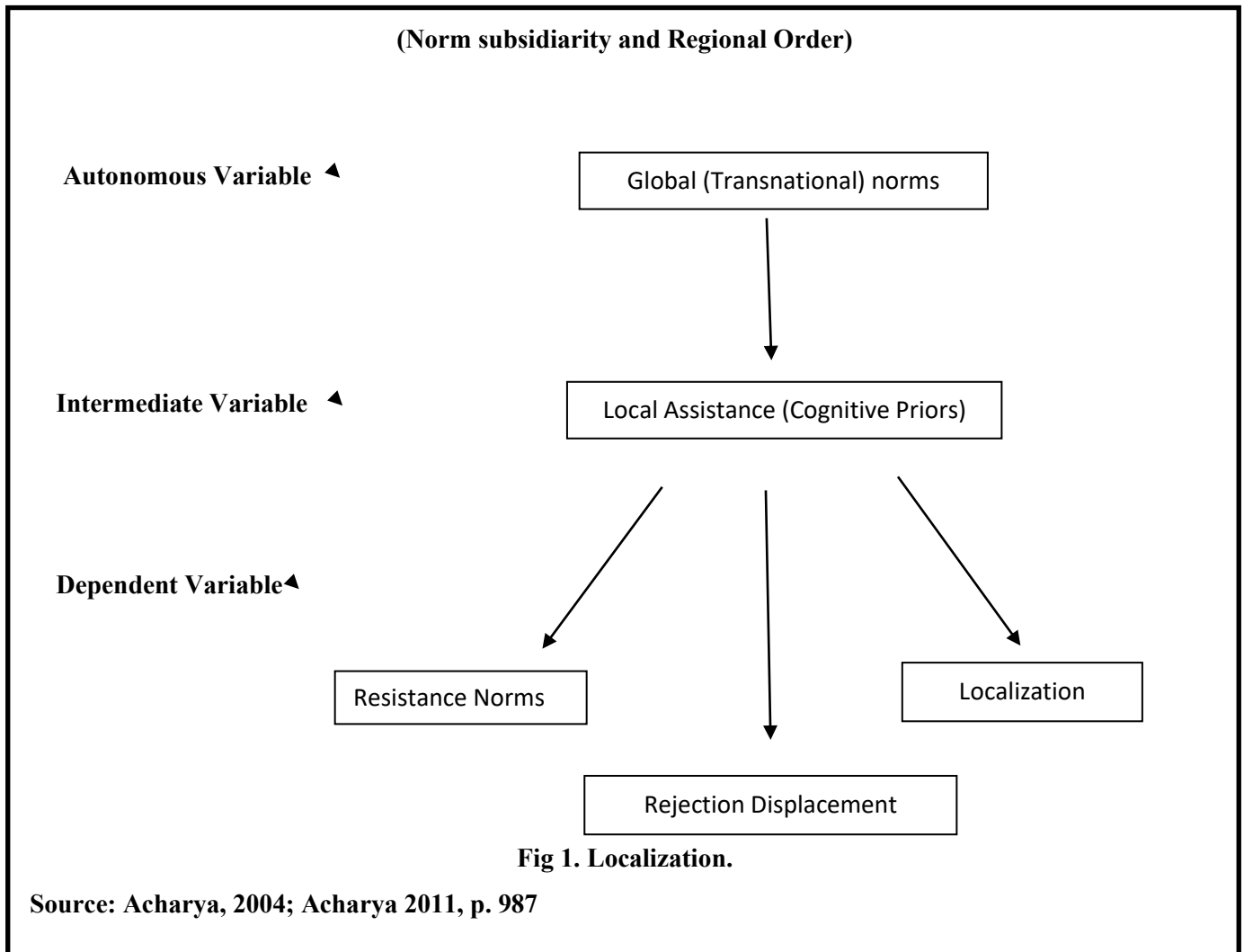
Given the unique challenges facing South Asia, it is essential to publicize regional solution and cooperation in arms control and disarmament. This means promoting dialogue and trust between countries in the regions, as well as developing joint ambition to address Common security threats. Norm subsidiarity firm the process whereby local actors create rules with a view to conserve their autonomy from supremacy, despair violation, or abuse by more powerful central actor. In South Asia promoting regional solutions and cooperation can help countries conserve their autonomy and handle security threats without relying on external power. This approach can contribute to a more stable and peaceful regional order (Acharya, 2011), The concept of, norm subsidiarity Contrasts basically from that of norm localization, though the latter provides useful source point for refining the distinguishable features of the former. Norm localization refers to the "active Construction (through converse, structuring, inserting and cultural selection) of foreign thoughts by local actors, while results in the latter developing important accordance with local beliefs and practices" (Acharya, 2004, P.245). These both ideas highlight the centrality of lower department and they deviate important respects notably there are five differences that set norm subsidiarity apart from localization

- Localization is primarily circumscribed inward looking as it explores to adjust foreign ideas and norms with an actual local emotional prior (Wolters, 1999; Acharya, 2009; Acharya 2011, p. 97) In contradiction, Subsidiarity is outward looking absorption not on the internal reworking of external but rather on the relational gesture between local actors and external powers, particularly in light of local fears of domination by the latter.

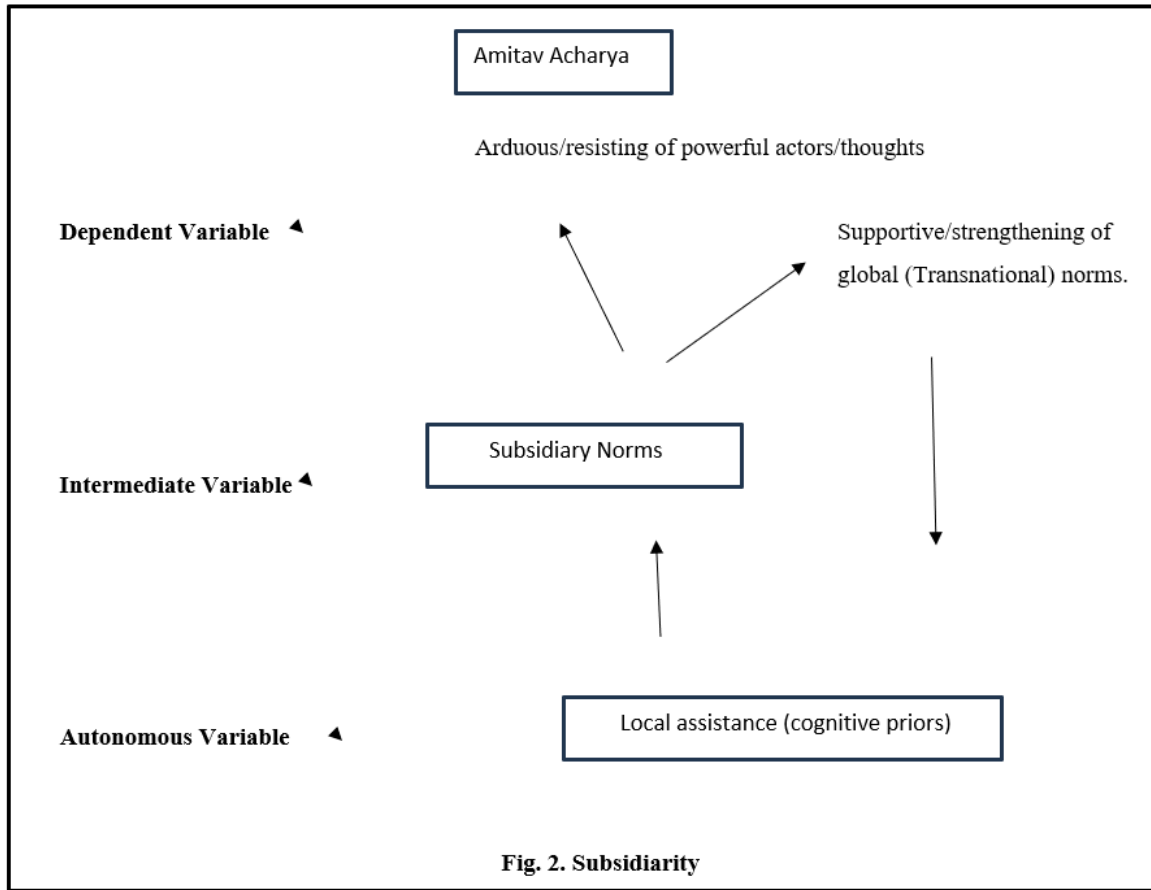
In the process of colocalization, local actors conduct mainly as norm - takers, adjusting and internalizing external norms into local situations. Contradiction to Subsidiarity allows Local actors to guess more confident role, positioning them not only as possible homes norm-rejecters but also as norm-makers in their own right, actively shaping substitutes to external instruction.

- Localization foreign norms are primarily imported and fitted for domestic use with their connotation largely restrained to the local situation (Acharya, 2004, p. 252; Acharya, 2011, P. 98). In Contract, subsidiarity Set-up local actors not only to build-up norms for internal purpose but also to export or "Universalize" those locally rising norms beyond their immediate settling (Kirsch, 1977). The outward forecast may take the form of advancement/developing actual global norms notably in challenging the Parochial or absolute ideas advanced by more powerful actors (see Figure 1 and 2).





- within localization local actors enlist in the redefinition of foreign norms that are anticipated consistent with pre-existing Cognitive structure, thereby necessitating modification for local acceptance, on the other hand subsidiarity bring-about a more against the gain viewpoint, wherein local actors reject external thought promoted by dominant powers of absolute, regarding them as in-appropriate of selection, adaptation or adoption in any form.



- Localization applies to all actors-largely or small- as it absorbs adapting global (Transnational) norms to fit local thoughts and practices wherever those norms converge with domestic situations. On the other hand, Subsidiarity nevertheless, is specific to weaker or tangential actors, or their autonomy is more face-down to being exposed. While localization does not require feelings of debarment or awareness of dominance, subsidiarity is bring-about as well by such experiences of neglect, abuse, or hypocrisy from stronger powers.

## 5. International Law, Statecraft, and the Coloniality of Norms

The intellectual appraisal of arms controls of course enlarged the wide frameworks of global (Transnational) governance and international law. These core institutions-often bestowed as neutral, universal and indispensable for global order - are in fact, products of the same Eurocentric hysterical give-and-take, that validate Colonialism. Decolonial examinations disclose that international norms related to statecraft, borders and economic property are thoroughly carved with the Coloniality of power, strengthening intellectual hierarchies that focus the security and economic interests of the Global North. By failing to examine their norms of Traditional Security and political scholarship can be Concerned in maintaining repressive Structure and "Old Myths" that fugitive anti-colonial opposition and naturalize certain political facts Therefore, a decolonized approach requires

Challenging the circumstantial perspicacity of these legal and governing systems, transcend Westphalian, state-Centric models to recognize and focus the epistemologies and material actuality of marginalized communities and the Global south.

### 5.1. United Nation (UN) and International Arms Control Regimes

- The United Nations (UN) has taken part in a multiplex role in casting arms control through quasi-legislative accomplishment declared by its General Assembly enabling the establishment of international norms and regulatory frameworks (Falk, 1966). Nonetheless its apparatus has been constrained by political realities, including the interests of powerful states that can Veto or get round multilateral commitments.
- UN peacekeeping and governance Structures have contributed to security and arms by-law efforts, yet their impact in South Asia has been mixed, throwback restriction in mandate, resources, and Political will ("chandra Lekho sopram et al., 2002) The institution's role thus manifest both the potential and the limit of Transnational (Global) governance in addressing Regional Arms Control.

### Case Studies

**The Indo-Pak Conflict:** The Indo-Pak conflict delivers an ambitious case study for understanding the ramification of arms control and disarmament in south Asia. The long-established conflict over Kashmir, germinated with historical enmity and security dilemmas which has inflamed the arms race between the two countries India and Pakistan. Both nations acquire nuclear weapons, aggregate the potential gains and losses at play in a political situation and increase the risk of acceleration. Efforts to decrease tensions and promote arms control have been hindered by a lack of trust and a history of failed agreements. The arrival of Narendra Modi as prime a minister has formed a considerable debate about the direction that Indian foreign policy might take, Despite his character as a come through Hindu Nationalist, Modi's foreign policy reverse Continuity with previous administrations, with a focus on strategic partnership and the hunt for higher status in the International system, so it le crucial to understand the fundamentals of Indian foreign policy for analyzing the prospects for arms comfort and Disarmament in the region (Bassur, 2017) In present times India believes in deterrence by Punishment. India for some time now has wanted to pursue or launch conventional attacks in case of sub-Convention by Pakistan (Terrorist attack). However, war stopped from pursuing the same because of fear of Pakistan resorting to use of tactical nuclear weapons against India. Such as any fear, conventional response by India could spiral into a nuclear war between the two countries, especially

since Pakistan is an irrational actor. However, Balakot Air Strike is thought to have been called Pakistan Nuclear bluff.

**The Sri Lankan Civil War:** The Sri Lankan Civil War, a long-term conflict between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), allows understanding into the challenges of arms control in coast-to-coast conflict. The conflict was described by the all over the place use of small arms and light weapons, as well as the engagement of external actors who supplied arms to both sides. Efforts to control the flow of weapons and promote disarmament were complicated by the complex political dynamics of the conflict and the presence of multiple armed groups.

Controlling weapons circulation in a post-colonial militarized world requires addressing the tension between arms transfer Control and militarism, therefore the negotiation process and eventual text of the UN Arms Trade Treaty testify to the contesting mode of governance, constructed by continuing stately relations. So, reframing the control of weapons dissemination requires a feminist, post-colonial and anti-militarist critique (Stavrianakis, 2018).

### **The Pahalgam Attack, (2025) - Amplification and the Suspension of CBMs.**

The recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam (Indian-administered Kashmir) in April 2025, which resulted in the Killing of civilians, and India's after while military response (Call "Operation Sindoor"), gives a stark instance of how enormously well-established post-colonial insecurity leads to the suspension and corrosion of CBMs in South Asia.

Amplification and the disintegration of Trust the Pahalgam attack which India assigned to Pakistan-based militants, provoked a four-day military conflict that became one of the most significant between the two nuclear-armed rivals in decades, comprehending air strikes and drone warfare approach demands a framework that tie-up security to political and diplomatic involvement on the root causes of insecurity, rather than solely managing the military symptom The Corrosion of Core agreements like the IWT highlights that without addressing the foundational security dilemma, no Technical CBM can sustainably endure.

Crises Features	Decolonized Arms control and Disarmament
Retaliation Threshold	India's reaction in corporate air strikes and operations deep-inside Pakistani territory (targeting establishment and terror camps). This action much like the Balakot strike in 2019 crosses a major step-up entrance, demonstrating India's enthusiasm to create space for sub-conventional military responses below the nuclear level. This wears away the established traditional deterrent firebreak and increases the risk of misunderstandings.
Decoupling CMBs from conflict resolution	<p>The forthwith and most vital reaction from India, was the decision to hold the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in suspension. The IWT, an important Confidence-building measure thrashed out in Consensus 1960, had long been thought-out a bedrock of bilateral cooperation. Weaponizing a civilian-use treaty like the IWT Structurally consensus the trust needed for any Arms control and Disarmament. It demonstrates that the core issues of state legitimacy and cross-border terrorism (rooted in the post-colonial partition) remain unresolved, making all CBMs continually fragile.</p> <p>The Pahelgam crisis reasserting that long-established Arms Control and Disarmament measures between India and Pakistan are fragile and deposed to political postpone because they were never truly decoupled from the core, past-colonial conflict over Kashmir. for Arms Control and disarmament to be fruitful a decolonized</p>

## Methodology

This paper is a qualitative, theoretical as policy-oriented analysis that amalgamates scholarly literature, policy reports, and recent expert appraisal of South Asian security dynamics. It depends on comparative and historical methods to identify continuities between colonial legacies and present-day arms dynamics and on normative analysis to put-forward feasible policy pathways rooted in decolonial principles. This paper emphasizes state-centered and region-led measures rather than idealistic and on-the-spot disarmament steps that ignore triumph political constraints.

## Discussion

The foregoing examination gives-away that the security dilemma in South Asia is basically structural which is rooted in the tripartite crisis of colonial institutional continuity, neo-colonial global nuclear hierarchy, and the epistemological failure of imported arms control principles. The carry on of external threat penetration is remarkable for legitimizing the dominance of military and security institutions

where many of which are direct colonial legacy, by that means blocking the political space required for demilitarization and genuine conflict resolution. The strategic result of the Non-nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT's) colonial infrastructure is the initiation of a system where non-proliferation is applied to eclectic and compelling non-nuclear states to seek equality through the system censures. India and Pakistan's nuclear projects in consequence and functioned as calculated acts of self-affirmation and self-reliance against perceived neglect and imposed lower-tier status within the global system. This assertion of sovereign autonomy remains the central barrier to externally dictated arms control mechanisms.

Furthermore, conventional arm control and Disarmament replicas fail in the South Asian context because they give importance to technical arms management over conflict transformation. The region's unique geographical closeness and shared frightening history, and trilogy dynamic (India-China-Pakistan) ensure that technical controls cannot stabilize a condition defined by juxtaposed conflicts over resources and territory legacy from arbitrary colonial divisions, such as the Radcliffe Line. The present arms race, intensified by the introduction of Emerging Technologies (ETs) like AI and drones, risks re-importing strategic dependency on Global North technology, deepening the colonial security dilemma under the guise of modernization

## Results

**The Status of Resistance** The main result of the decolonial critique is the clear outline of South Asian states' opposition to externally imposed security regimes, notably those rooted in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT's) bigotry structure. This opposition is specifically displayed by the consolidated rivalry of both India and Pakistan to the TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons) even though it is mounted by the Global South as a decolonial alternative to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). **Repudiate of the TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons):** Both the countries, India and Pakistan being a nuclear-weapons states in the region assert a congruous policy of non-participation and repudiate of the TPNW, which straightaway challenges the global movement toward humanitarian disarmament: **India's stance:** India embargoes the TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons) deal in 2017 and persistently votes against the annual United Nation General Assembly resolutions welcoming it's taking in. India clearly declared in 2023 that it is not a party to the treaty and will not be bound by any of its duty and believes the treaty does not contribute to traditional international law. **Pakistan's Stances:** Pakistan likewise repudiates the TPNW negotiations and votes against annual resolutions. Pakistan substantiates its repudiation by arguing that the TPNW "reduces the discussion only to humanitarian extent while ignoring the legitimate security matters of States". Moreover, Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN stated that the country cannot support the

TPNW as long as India vindicates a nuclear arsenal, underlining the local security domineering over global humanitarian demands. This combined rejection emphasizes that, while the decolonial thesis rejects the NPT's two-tier system and the sovereign assertion achieved through nuclearization that takes precedence over global prohibition efforts that are perceived as ignoring the region's unique, localized security dynamic.

## Conclusion

I comprehend the situation of the decolonization of arms control in South Asia, an extensive of the region's colonial military legacy and the intricate post-colonial security landscape. Amalgamating this historical inheritance with present-day geo-political and social-cultural realities is crucial for drafting Comprehensible and contingently relevant security policies. An effective decolonial arms control framework must declare local agency Inspiring regionally inheritance mechanisms and the formation of various normative orders that reflect South Asia's unique conditions ("Acharya 2011). Empowering civil society and encouraging bottom-up governance review dominant structures and advances unbiased arms governance, but if we think about Recommendations of Policies and future Research direction it is crucial for the government to conceptualization of policies should give vital to openness and transparency and fairness to overcome conventional arms control shortcomings. Further research is needed to intensify decolonial scholarship including empirical studies of existing ambition and traditional transformation. Repeated dialogue among scholars, policymakers and civil society will prompt the evolution of arms control strategies responsive to South Asia's aspirations for peace and security.

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