



## India and Pakistan –The structural relationship

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### Abstract

The core argument this article makes is that India and Pakistan-The Structural Relationship. For the study of present topic the investigator used the analytical methods for this article by reviewing relevant publications, primarily based on the online journals available on Internet, Wikipedia, Elsevier and Journal of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA).

**Keywords:** structural relationship, relevant publications, institute for defense studies and analyses

### Introduction

The India–Pakistan relationship for the first five decades after independence displayed a typical strong versus weak state pattern. The material distribution of power at the close of the twentieth century, when both formally became nuclear powers, was clear-cut. Indeed, India's sheer size dominated the South Asian region. Its share of the region's land area was 73 per cent, of population 77 per cent, and of GNP 77 per cent. In military terms, India's position *vis-à-vis* Pakistan was very strong. In 1985, India's total military expenditure was US\$ 8,921 million as against Pakistan's US\$ 2,957 million, the gap further increasing by 1998, when India spent US\$ 13,780 million while Pakistan spent US\$ 3,920 million. The strain on Pakistan's economy was much greater. In the same years, India's expenditure as a percentage of its GNP was 3.0 per cent (both years), while for Pakistan the figures were 6.9 per cent and 6.5 per cent respectively. The major indicators of military power were skewed in India's favor. Its active armed forces numbered 1,173,000 as against Pakistan's 587,000; and the difference was further reflected in relative capabilities with respect to main battle tanks (3,414 and 2,320), major naval combat ships (42 and 18), and combat aircraft (853 and 296). On the other hand, the popular conception that emerged in the late 1980s of India as a 'regional superpower' or even an emerging 'great power on the world stage' neglects the limitations on its actual exercise of power. For instance, India's military capabilities were not enough to defeat the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka during the late 1980s.

None the less, the strategic behavior of the two countries displayed the strong/weak state patterns described above. *South Asia's cold war*. The expectations of neorealist theory are borne out in the history of the strategic relationship between India and Pakistan. It is a history of territorial contest, distrust, arms competition, and war that need not be recounted in detail here. In 1947, the conflict began with a tribal revolt against the Maharaja of Kashmir, who was unwilling to join either India or Pakistan. The rebels, assisted by Pakistani forces, gained control over a considerable swath of territory, whereupon the Maharaja acceded to India and the

two countries went to war.

To gain the support of the nations of the Indian Ocean region in order to gain supremacy in this littoral. This was due to the great importance of the Indian Ocean through which runs more than three quarters of the world's trade. As of late both China and India are rising as potential superpowers and are making all efforts to gain control of the Indian Ocean. India, because of its Indian Ocean littoral, seeks greater maritime presence in the region. China, as a Pacific Ocean Nation is increasingly interested in gaining a foothold in the Indian Ocean in its quest for global power. It has started funding its Chain of Pearls port facilities in southern Sri Lanka and Pakistan which is viewed as a possible first step in gaining control of the region.

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