



16th INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

ACHIEVING RESILIENCE THROUGH DIGITALIZATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND
SECTORAL TRANSFORMATION

DEFENCE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

ABSTRACTS



General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.

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Contents	Page
Building Resilience in the Indo-Pacific: A Holistic Defence Approach for the United States and Sri Lanka	2
Social Network Analysis as a Strategic Plan to Overcome Terrorism	3
Analysing the Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive and its Legal Implications in the Context of the Russia-Ukraine War	4
International Security Landscape of Sri Lanka; Since COVID-19 Pandemic	5
Indo-Sri Lanka Relations with Special Reference to China’s Cultural Diplomacy in Sri Lanka	6
Chain Migration: Implication for Developing Sri Lankan Diaspora	7
An Assessment of Immigration and Emigration Act in Sri Lanka on Irregular Migration . .	8
Heating the Battle Space: Consequences of Climate Change on Air Operations	9
Swing States of the Global South: Implications for Sri Lanka	10
An Investigative Study on the Recent Geopolitical Tension in the Indian Ocean Region; With Special Reference to String of Pearls and Necklace of Diamond Strategies	11
Changing Threat Dimensions; Preventing Extremism in the Digital Age	12
Resurgence of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria through its Propaganda	13
Social and Cultural Impacts towards Sri Lankan Military from United Nations Missions . .	14
Irregular Maritime Boundary Crossing in-between India and Sri Lanka since Year 2000 onward	15
Small Team as a Successful Strategy Used in the Battle Against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam	16
Geopolitical Struggle in Indo-Pacific: A Case Study on AUKUS	17
Role of Social Media and Online News in 2022 Sri Lankan Riots and Utilization of OODA Loop Based OSINT Framework	18
Drone-Enable Security: Advancing an Operational Framework for Sri Lanka	19
Regional Security Implications of the Hybrid War in Afghanistan	20
Resilient Future by Adopting Sustainable Practices, and Driving Sectoral Transformations .	21
Challenges in Reducing Paper Waste in the Sri Lanka Army: Analysis of the Existing Methods	22
Nexus between Climate Change and Human Security in Sri Lanka: Implications for Small Island Developing States in the Indian Ocean Region	23
Comparative Analysis of Clausewitz’s and Basil Liddle Hart’s Military Theories and Their Applicability in Modern Warfare	24
A New Dawn for the Middle East: Public Diplomacy and Influence Campaigns in the Middle East	25

Evaluating Weather Warfare in Alternative Futures: A Game Changer in Future Power Rivalry	26
Achieving Resilience through Digitalization, Sustainability and Sectoral Transformation – What are the Long Term Strategic Options and Reforms for Sri Lanka Armed Forces	27
Unleashing the Power of Strategic Communication: A Shield Fortifying National Security	29
Heroes Behind the Hazmat: Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Combat Engineers Dominating the Pandemic Battlefield	30
The Use of Soft Power in the Diplomacy of the Holy See	31
Potential Expansion of Sri Lanka’s Ports to Optimize Advantages from Global Supply Chain	32
Post Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam Threat in Sri Lanka; Change in <i>Modus Operandi</i>	33
Geographic Information System Mechanism for the Terrain Overlay of the Intelligence Preparation of Battlefield Process	34
Maritime Choke Points and its Impact on Global Economy A Comprehensive Analysis	35
Understanding the Geopolitical Rivalry between India and China in South Asia: Implications for Regional Stability and Power Dynamics	36
Impact of Kalinga Maga Invasion in Sri Lanka History	37
National Security Policy 2030: Internal and External Challenges	38
An Assessment on Security Challenges Posed by Muslim and Sinhala Buddhist in Sri Lanka	39
Marine Environmental Pollution: A Case Study on the Indian Ocean Region	40
The Impact of Biological and Chemical Warfare on Human Security: A Humanitarian Law Perspective	41

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Building Resilience in the Indo-Pacific: A Holistic Defence Approach for the United States and Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The US and Sri Lanka mutually agree that a “free and open” Indo-Pacific that is secure, prosperous, and resilient should be the goal of future engagement with each other and other states in the region. Concerning their defence posture, both countries have expressed and demonstrated the strength and necessity of defensive capacity- building and maritime domain awareness measures focused on addressing counterterrorism, drug and human trafficking, illegal fishing, and disaster risk management. US strategy on “rebalancing” Asia and its regional defence dilemma lies in how to productively engage the smaller littoral states of the region, like Sri Lanka, to promote a “secure” Indo-Pacific without compromising its interests and actual capacities to maintain its operations. This research aims to find the answer to how a complex power strategy of defence cooperation might be balanced with soft power diplomatic strategy, which is critical for a holistic approach to the 75-year relationship between the US and Sri Lanka. This study is significant in that this paper will hopefully serve as a starting point for a new era of mutual defence relations. The project methodology will focus on an analytical literature review of international and domestic writings in research journals and scholarly articles, and formulating recommendations for the future of US-Sri Lanka defence relations. Findings of the study discuss Sri Lanka’s dilemma on expanding the capacities of its forces to deal with domestic and external threats through innovative budgetary and defence reform without surrendering its principle of non-alignment and jeopardizing its necessary relationships with considerable regional powers. Further, the findings suggest that the U.S. and Sri Lanka are required to work together to promote a positive, modern-facing, and capacity-building-centered defence strategy, intent on addressing critical domestic and regional security challenges while at the same time exercising a strategy of “restraint” so as not to overextend their respective capabilities and interests and compromise their relationships with other regional partners.

Keywords: *US-Sri Lanka Relationship, Indo- Pacific Strategy*

Social Network Analysis as a Strategic Plan to Overcome Terrorism

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Abstract

Terrorism continues to pose a significant threat to global security, requiring innovative strategies to effectively combat this complex phenomenon. Traditional counter-terrorism approaches often focus on reactive measures, such as intelligence gathering and law enforcement actions. Social Network Analysis (SNA) is the study of relationships and interactions between individuals or groups. However, there is a growing recognition that understanding and disrupting the social networks that support terrorist organizations can be a powerful strategic plan in the fight against terrorism. Social Network Analysis provides valuable insights into the structure, dynamics, and vulnerabilities within terrorist networks, enabling targeted interventions to disrupt their operations and enhance counter-terrorism efforts. This abstract explores the potential of Social Network Analysis (SNA) as a strategic tool to overcome terrorism. The research questions aim to understand how SNA can contribute to the understanding of the structure, dynamics, and vulnerabilities within terrorist networks, as well as identify the challenges and limitations associated with applying SNA as a strategic plan to counter terrorism. The research objectives involve investigating the theoretical foundations and relevance of SNA in counter-terrorism efforts, and proposing recommendations to address the challenges and limitations. The research methodology utilizes a comprehensive literature review as a qualitative approach to examine existing knowledge, theories, and empirical studies on SNA and counter-terrorism. The findings are expected to provide insights into the role of SNA in countering terrorism, identify challenges, and offer recommendations to enhance its effectiveness. In conclusion this research contributes to the development of innovative strategies to disrupt terrorist networks and enhance global security.

Keywords: *Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism, Social Network Analysis*

Analysing the Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive and its Legal Implications in the Context of the Russia-Ukraine War

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Abstract

The Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) was first invoked in March 2001 through the European Council Decision 2022/382 to address the outflows of asylum seekers fleeing Ukraine. As a result of the TPD's declaration that the situation in Ukraine was one of mass influxes, the displaced persons were allowed to settle in the countries of their choice. Arguably, it only applies to Ukrainian nationals while other nationals in Ukraine including third- country nationals are required to undergo the 'First country' of asylum or 'Safe third country' solution. Hence, TPD has created a normative deadstock within the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). This has been mainly followed by the absence of updated or revised developments in asylum mechanisms. Asylum seekers in this situation need mandatory quotas than temporary protection procedures. Within this scope, the key question of this paper is how far TPD has become beneficial to safeguard the Ukrainians. Alongside this, the main objective of this paper is to analyse the effective utilization of asylum mechanisms with reference to the CEAS. The theory of Liberal Intergovernmentalism will be utilised in this paper to demonstrate empirical views which deal with a status where immigration control moves up to the intergovernmental level. The Qualitative methodology will be used in this paper to examine both Independent and Dependent variables. The adaptation of TPD will be identified as the Independent variable and its impact on the CEAS will be considered as the Dependent variable. The paper also concludes that the TPD neither denotes a unified CEAS nor legitimate asylum protection.

Keywords: *Temporary Protection Directive, Asylum Seeker, First Country of Asylum, Safe Third Country, Common European Asylum System*

International Security Landscape of Sri Lanka; Since COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

The ripple effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic had reshaped the three-way nexus between the pandemics, national and international security and international relations. When the public health issues strain international security and international relations at the same time, states are compelled to take different approaches to mitigate the effects on national integrity or sovereignty. However, in the Sri Lankan context, the possible long-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are particularly disturbing. According to published articles “pandemics go far beyond mere public health crises, leaving an indelible mark on the contemporary social fabric”. In that sense, a deep analysis is required to identify the tangible as well as intangible factors resulted from such a catastrophe. Initially, COVID-19 impacted the social, economic and political pillars of the Sri Lankan society and secondary affects were more on global context. In this context, this paper aims on identifying significant traditional and non-traditional security threats faced by Sri Lanka in the context of international security since COVID-19 pandemic. This study is qualitative in nature. In that, in-depth interviews were conducted with a cross section of professionals involving major disciplines that have bearing on the traditional and non-traditional national security concerns. The NVivo was used in analysing the data gathered through in-depth interviews. This paper analyses the present applicability of Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT) which is one of the most comprehensive frameworks that outline distinct variables necessary for regional security analysis. However, the paper proposes changes to RSCT from a 2023 and beyond context after analysing the security landscape of Sri Lanka since COVID-19 pandemic. It is concluded that Sri Lanka should establish durable political stability as the essential component in reaching its economic goals. Civil society cultivation and engagement are two key areas in which Sri Lanka should focus more in the present context. It is imperative that Sri Lanka preserve and augment its domestic, national defence, and regional security freedom of maneuver among large states such as China, India, US, Russia using correct blend of foreign policy whilst upholding national interests.

Keywords: *COVID-19 Pandemic, National Security, International Security, Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Threats*

Indo-Sri Lanka Relations with Special Reference to China's Cultural Diplomacy in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Cultural diplomacy serves as a form of soft power, fostering understanding and collaboration between nations and civilizations through cultural exchange, creative expression, and other modes of cultural communication. Recently, the Chinese government integrated culture as its third soft power pillar within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aiming to enhance its global reputation and reinforce its position in the power struggle with India. Sri Lanka, with its rich cultural heritage, has become a primary focus of Chinese cultural diplomacy. This research aims to investigate the impact of Chinese Cultural Diplomacy on Indo-Sri Lanka relations. To achieve this, a deductive approach utilizing qualitative methodology was employed. The study relied on secondary qualitative data from journal articles, newspapers, and Indian news outlets such as Gravitas and NDTV. Through thematic analysis, it was found that China primarily employs two methods-Confucius Centers and Buddha Diplomacy-to disseminate its culture in Sri Lanka. However, due to the longstanding cultural ties between India and Sri Lanka, India has effectively countered China's influence. Further, China's attempts to exert control over Sri Lankan society and improve its tarnished image resulting from the BRI and the ongoing economic crisis have been met with resistance. The study offers recommendations emphasizing the importance of Sri Lanka adopting a balanced foreign policy, particularly regarding cultural matters that carry significant emotional weight and consequences. Sri Lanka should exercise caution when welcoming Chinese infrastructure projects as part of Buddha Diplomacy. Additionally, it is crucial for Sri Lankan monks to avoid politicizing China's Buddha diplomacy.

Keywords: *Sri Lanka Relations, Chinese Cultural Diplomacy, Belt and Road Initiative, Soft Power, Confucius Centers, Buddha Diplomacy*

Chain Migration: Implication for Developing Sri Lankan Diaspora

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Abstract

As a result of the geographical location of Sri Lanka, the island faced numerous external arrivals and aggression's since ancient time. Also, migration patterns of Sri Lankans can clearly identify since this period. Due to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam LTTE war these irregular and regular movements enhanced quickly and continuously. As a result of COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis mostly youth, educated group started to migrate western countries. Sri Lanka is a country where society and community gives huge respect and attention own culture and traditions. As a result of that Author found, Sri Lankans prefer to relocate in a safer destination where they can maintain the Sri Lankan cultural and traditional values in new land. Therefore, Sri Lankans tend to settle with their own relatives, friends and flock. These factors mainly working as both push pull factor on migration and author analyses this trend under the chain migration movement of Sri Lankans. Especially diaspora activities make huge impact on both host and home countries. Such as China town, Little India, Mini Italy these kinds of suburbs are visible in most of the European countries and all other major cities. Since mid-20 century Sri Lankans connecting together in western countries and trying reestablish Sri Lankan cultural and social practices in respective destinations. Paper explains the emerging trend of Sri Lankan diaspora in Europe and the way characteristics of chain migration worked on it. Further, author used secondary data to develop the argument of the research.

Keywords: *Diaspora, Chain Migration, Push and Pull factors*

An Assessment of Immigration and Emigration Act in Sri Lanka on Irregular Migration

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Abstract

Irregular migration can recognize in each and every part of the world in every period of the world history. It carried positive and negative results all host, home and corridor countries. Considering the current scenario authors identified irregular migration movements all around the world due to different reasons and also, there are lot of organizations, international rules and regulations to control these activities. In parallel to International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations (UN) and United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) every nation has a huge responsibility to control these irregular migration movements. Especially this irregular migration is interconnected with human trafficking, smuggling and lot of other illegal activities. “Immigrants and Emigrants Act, No 20 of 1948” introduced and powered on 1st of Nov 1949 to face these challenges as a responsible state. As same Sri Lankan irregular migration movements can be highlight in various eras since independence. Mainly during the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam LTTE war period, Post-war period, COVID-19 period and Economic Crisis periods are few of the main phases which increased the irregular migration movements from the island. Therefore, this research paper analyse the legal background against this irregular migration movement and authors discuss the essential role of immigration and emigration act on curtailing irregular migration in Sri Lanka with statistics of irregular migration movements in Sri Lanka. Paper used both quantitative and qualitative research methods on this research to analyse the up and downs of the irregular migration movements and inter connection with the act.

Keywords: *Immigrants and Emigrants act, Irregular migration, Sri Lanka*

Heating the Battle Space: Consequences of Climate Change on Air Operations

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Abstract

Climate change is not a prediction, it is a present-day ground reality. It has been accelerated by man-made reasons primarily by the emission of greenhouse gases and deforestation. This study is focused on the consequences of global warming specifically on air operations. Objectives of the study are to find out the consequences of global warming, particularly on air operations, to identify the measures taken by different stakeholders to address the issues due to global warming, to determine the level of commitment of aviators in adopting the measures to address global warming and potential inputs of technology to mitigate adverse effects of global warming on air operations. The methodology of the study adopted an inductive approach to this exploratory qualitative study and pragmatism was the philosophy. Grounded theory was the strategy and the time horizon was cross-sectional. Data collection and analysis happened to be the technique. Primary data were collected through a sample of aviators operating in tropical regions, selected through purposive sampling. The findings of the study revealed that, disrupted weather patterns, effects on aircraft performance, effects on human performance, sustainability of aircraft and associated equipment, risk of fire hazard and rise of sea level are the most pressing phenomena on air operations due to climatic change. There were two recommendations based on the research outcome namely, to encourage global-level discussions for seeking long-term solutions, continue research on sustainable solutions and develop a combined strategy. Human kind have already joined the vicious cycle of climate change and accelerated it through a variety of activities, essential for modern-day living. Yet there are ways and means to slow down the process of global warming, which require short-term and long-term solutions. Collective effort through genuine collaboration could yield better results than working in isolation.

Keywords: *Air Operations, Global Warming, Climate Change, Sustainable Solutions*

Swing States of the Global South: Implications for Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The foreign policies of the global South were largely influenced by the Non-aligned movement till the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. Aftermath, Non-alignment heavily faced criticisms in its relevance and it is also evident that non-aligned policy was not strong enough to fulfil the economic needs of the developing world rather it helped to maintain the political independence of the states. In contemporary global politics, most of the emerging powers are using the newly defined “Swing States” concept when they deal with global political issues. In a simple explanation, swing states reflect the countries that adopt issue-based stances in their engagements with international actors, without capitulating to polarization or alignment with major competitors. This concept has more significance to Sri Lanka, considering the changing geopolitical trends and internal context. The research explains how Sri Lanka could use the swing states’ policy to achieve its national security objectives. Amidst the unprecedented economic crisis, Sri Lanka faces challenges in balancing its economic needs and national security interests. Although, Sri Lanka may not possess the same level of capacities, which swing states hold, strategies used by those states can still leverage to negotiate with existing and emerging great powers. This research adopts a qualitative approach to explain how Sri Lanka can navigate international issues while increasing its bargaining powers by adopting a swing state policy. Considering the current global political trends, this paper will explain, the term swing states, countries that are considered as swing states and their characteristics, assessing how Sri Lanka could have benefited from boosting a trend toward more fluid and reversible alliances.

Keywords: *Swing States, Global South, National Security, Great Powers, Emerging Powers*

An Investigative Study on the Recent Geopolitical Tension in the Indian Ocean Region; With Special Reference to String of Pearls and Necklace of Diamond Strategies

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Abstract

This paper examines whether India's necklace of diamond strategy has been successful to counter China's string of pearls strategy in the Indian Ocean region. China's string of pearls strategy ensures establishing maritime bases in Sri Lanka, Maldives, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Djibouti to enhance its influence and military network. India argues that China is trying to surround itself with a network of dual-use port facilities in the Indian Ocean, the main concern here is Defence and Energy security. China is even affiliated with Afghanistan, Ukraine, Yemen, and Iraq, all currently splintered by conflict. However, in this geopolitical crisis between China and India, it is possible to identify how successful their strategies have been. Accordingly, the Indian Ocean region is more important than choosing any other region. This is qualitative research based on descriptive analysis. Here information is obtained through secondary data and information is obtained through research papers and articles conducted in this regard. And also maps are used to study the geographical distribution. According to the analysis, It can be concluded that India has managed to exert a significant influence on China through its Necklace of Diamonds. It can be concluded that India is making many efforts that are not second to China. Accordingly, India has achieved some success in implementing its strategy through the Necklace of Diamonds.

Keywords: *Indian Ocean Region, Necklace of Diamonds, String of Pearls*

Changing Threat Dimensions; Preventing Extremism in the Digital Age

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Abstract

Extremism poses a persistent and significant threat for the stability of a nation. It is a complex psychological phenomenon that gradually leads to tangible actions, extending beyond its narrow military aspects. Countering extremism in present digital era requires innovative strategies to effectively address and prevent it within the changing digital landscape. Therefore, this research aims to explore the intricate relationship between extremism and its implications for national security in the digital sphere. Sri Lanka's historical experiences with extremism, both before and after digitalization, add unique dimensions to this examination. Understanding how the digital age has become a fertile ground for disseminating and amplifying extremist ideologies is crucial for formulating effective countermeasures. Leveraging the digital space to counteract and prevent extremism warrants exploration. Using a qualitative methodology, this study will investigate the evolving threat landscape through various analysis techniques. By shedding light on these changes, it seeks to uncover the complexities associated with preventing extremism in the digital age. The findings will inform recommendations to reduce its impact.

Keywords: *Digital space, Extremism, Security, Sri Lanka*

Resurgence of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria through its Propaganda

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Abstract

A terrorist organization with a strong ideological presence is not totally vanquished just by the death of its members and the group's dormancy. According to multiple works of literature, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is considered as an inspiration by many other extremist groups and is blamed for the resurgence and rebirth of various terrorist groups around the world, in various forms and factions. Despite the loss of territorial presence in 2017, ISIS began to re-emerge in 2018. Notwithstanding efficient and successful counter-ISIS measures by regional and international actors, the terrorist group is still actively reconstructing in Iraq and Syria using its most sophisticated propaganda which is challenging to counter. The goal of this research is to provide light on ISIS as a whole and the propaganda used by the group that led to it becoming the world's most destructive terrorist organization. This is a qualitative research based on secondary sources with an analytical approach to the research problem. Drawing on the group's history, actions, and subsequent global reactions, an attempt is made to map the potential problems they pose to the battle against terrorism by using a sophisticated mode of propaganda. This article seeks to track the resurgence of ISIS despite being gradually weakened over the years due to its strong propaganda campaign through modern and advanced methods.

Keywords: *Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, Propaganda, Terrorism, Iraq, Syria*

Social and Cultural Impacts towards Sri Lankan Military from United Nations Missions

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Abstract

Due to the current ongoing economic crisis government has implemented different strategies to overcome from this issue. Also, as a policy government trying reduce the weight of government workers during this period and also, to gain maximum outcome from the government employees. Further, Sri Lanka military leading with Sri Lanka Army hold a deluxe image in the world on completing a humanitarian mission against the world no 1 terrorist group. Considering the post war activities which work along on disaster management, urban warfare and cyber security issues Sri Lankan Army and other forces engaged actively on these missions for the benefits of the state and the Sri Lankan. As a result of that there is a trend and ongoing discussion to increase the number of soldiers on UN missions as a strategy to gain more foreign currencies to the island. In parallel to economic benefits there are lots of benefits which Sri Lankan military can achieve through those missions. Based to that fact author structured the research on evaluating the other non-economic benefits from United Nations (UN) missions. Mainly as an island nation Sri Lanka failed to blend with other countries as equally as other nations. Due to these missions Sri Lanka were able to work with the soldiers all around the world and this knowledge, thinking patterns and other skills positively effects on Sri Lanka military. Also, considering the structure of Sri Lankan Army and other tri-forces author urged that each and every individual of the military earns several professional and survival skills during the military carrier. Working on UN missions especially under a different geographical, cultural environment helps soldiers to improve their skills and also to try those skills under unfamiliar situations. Therefore, author used the different articles, literature to find out the experiences and other related knowledge whilst making several interviews, discussions with military officers and other rank personalities to find out first hand data on this scope of the research.

Keywords: *UN missions, Military, Sri Lanka Army*

Irregular Maritime Boundary Crossing in-between India and Sri Lanka since Year 2000 onward

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Abstract

Sri Lanka and India are two neighboring states which are having long relationship in all diplomatic aspects such as Social, Political, Economic and Cultural. Indian Ocean area majority part extend in between these two nations. Therefore, when it comes to the fishery industry people in Northern and Eastern part of Sri Lanka as well as South Indian people are the main portion among two nations use this valuable sea assert. In this study, Researchers sought determine how this territorial maritime boundary has been crossed by the both countries in irregular manner and emphasize briefly recorded incident which were illegally crossed sea boarder from year 2000 onward. Bilateral agreements and diplomatic precaution have taken in resent past to control the issue as well as develop the relationship between both countries. Naval forces and coastal guard in both counties are continuously conducting series of actions in order to minimize the illegal entrance to neighboring each two maritime boundary areas. Moreover some qualitative recommended suggestions are discussed in the paper to control and eliminate this existing threat. This paper takes form of qualitative research has extracted via both primary sources, statements and secondary sources, websites, books, government records, journal and articles.

Keywords: *Indian Ocean, Territorial Sea Area, Bilateral Agreements*

Small Team as a Successful Strategy Used in the Battle Against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

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Abstract

Sri Lanka military have used many war strategies to win the war against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The fourth stage of the war, which erupted under the cause of securing humanitarian needs against LTTE, Sri Lanka Army have used different strategies, tactics, techniques and employed procedures to achieve their targets in the battlefield. The infantry regiments of Sri Lanka army played leading role adopting those strategies more effectively against the terrorism. These new methods worked efficiently on attacking and advancing their capabilities in the battlefield, while incurring massive defeats for terrorists. This research extends to broadly discuss “Small Team” as one of the success strategies used to win the war against LTTE in Sri Lanka. The composition of the Small Team consists with Navigation, Gunnery/Demolition, Communication and Medical experts as a unit. This research elaborates the concept of Small Team as Strategy and analyzed the its impacts to win the fourth Elam War. This research used qualitative research approach to explain the strategy and author used first hand experiences of military officers through interviews, questionnaires, and other military related secondary data for this research. The most of the sectors in Sri Lanka is going with reform process, Sri Lanka military reform also taken top priorities. In this backdrop, modernization of Sri Lanka military while enhancing its capabilities will help to protect and provide its national security as key concern of the country national security.

Keywords: *Small Team, Strategy, War, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Fourth Elam War, National Security*

Geopolitical Struggle in Indo-Pacific: A Case Study on AUKUS

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Abstract

Indo-Pacific region has become one of the key strategic hubs where geopolitical confrontations evolve and develop day by day. These confrontations are influenced not only by the regional stakeholders but also by the extra regional stakeholders in which they try to secure their geopolitical interests in line with their national interests under a balance of power approach. It is of utmost importance to understand the geopolitical struggle that persist between powerful countries in and out of Indo-Pacific region. This paper seeks to shed light on the newly formed security partnership: AUKUS under a geopolitical perspective and to highlight its influence to evolving Indo-Pacific region. Organic State Theory and Rimland Theory will be incorporated in the paper to critically analyse AUKUS as a case study in the struggle for power in Geo-strategically significant Indo-Pacific region.

Keywords: *AUKUS, Geopolitical Interests, National Security, Power*

Role of Social Media and Online News in 2022 Sri Lankan Riots and Utilization of OODA Loop Based OSINT Framework

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Abstract

Prolonged riots which violates legal rights and peaceful limits and turns violent with having a potential toward to an anarchical social unrest are perceived as threats to national security, exacerbated in the digital age by the impact of online news and social media. Activists use platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and Telegram for riot organization without traditional structures. This presents challenges for national security stakeholders, necessitating agile responses to the rapidly evolving online landscape. Open-source intelligence (OSINT) is valuable in understanding social media's role in riots. This paper presents a case study of Sri Lanka's 2022 riots, examining social media's role in propaganda, organizing and mobilizing. For that, temporal data on hashtags, online groups member growth, call-for-action posts, and YouTube Live streams were collected for analyses. Online news volume related to the riots was also analyzed using the Global Database for Events Language and Tone (GDELT) to assess riot intensity through media coverage. Based on these insights and analysis, an operational framework is recommended for responding to the use of online news and social media in riots, incorporating elements from the OODA loop and other existing models and frameworks. This framework emphasizes the importance of proactive analysis of online and social media activity related to riots, as well as the need for rapid and effective responses to emerging threats. This research explores the impact of social media on riots using Sri Lanka's 2022 unrest as a case study. This research contributes to the growing body of literature on the use of online news and social media in riots and highlights the critical role of OSINT techniques in understanding and responding to emerging threats

Keywords: *Social Media, Open Source Intelligence, Riot Mobilization*

Drone-Enable Security: Advancing an Operational Framework for Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The Nagorno-Karabakh war in 2020 demonstrated the unprecedented paradigm shift in aerial warfare, with Azerbaijan successfully utilising attack drones to destroy enemy troops and defence systems. This study underscored the prominence of comprehending and keeping pace with the evolving trends of drone technology in the security realm. The study addressed the knowledge gap by providing valuable insights into defining an operational framework and integrated approach for drone operations in Sri Lanka. It emphasized the importance of aligning drone utilization with the operational framework to achieve favourable outcomes in military engagements. Besides, the study established a statistical correlation between the integrated approach and the employment of drones in the security realm, highlighting the significance of collaboration between different state agencies and the military. The research methodology employed a mixed-method approach, combining primary data collection through questionnaires and interviews with secondary data from literature and doctrines. The sample size was determined using the stratified sampling technique, ensuring representation from relevant stakeholders involved in drone operations. The conceptual framework is based on the review of theoretical studies. The study explored that the operational framework must be based on purpose, time, space, and resources in land and maritime domains. Further, centralised command and integrated operational environment must be established whilst enhancing the collaboration in research and development projects to advance the drone industry in the country.

Keywords: *Drone, Operational Framework, Integrated Approach, Centralised Command*

Regional Security Implications of the Hybrid War in Afghanistan

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Abstract

In the aftermath of the US and NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, the war-torn nation has experienced a significant shift in the nature of its endless conflict. Following the Taliban regaining power by ousting the Kabul regime, Afghanistan has once again transcended as the latest geopolitical battleground for superpowers and regional state actors. The perpetual state of war in Afghanistan has converged local and transnational militant aspirations with geopolitical interests - leading to a nexus between state and non-state actors that are engaging in a hybrid war. The utilization of hybrid warfare strategies in Afghanistan by state and non-state actors has added a new dimension to the conflict, which has developed into the latest major threat to peace and security in the South and Central Asian region. As the Taliban grapples to maintain its hold on governance, their authority and legitimacy faces persistent challenges from local militants and transnational terrorist groups. This complex milieu provides a space for state actors and militant groups to operate below the threshold of a conventional war, by employing synchronized multidimensional methods of warfare. The objective of this paper is to help guide strategic thinking by understanding the applications of the concept of hybrid warfare in the context of the conflict in Afghanistan. This analysis examines the implications to regional security in South and Central Asia, by exploring the current trajectory of Afghanistan's perpetual war, which has evolved into a state of "perpetual hybridity" resulting from hybrid strategies that are directed by state and non-state actors.

Keywords: *Hybrid warfare, Perpetual War, Perpetual Hybridity, Afghanistan, Taliban, Islamic State Khorasan Province, Regional Security, Battle-space*

Resilient Future by Adopting Sustainable Practices, and Driving Sectoral Transformations

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Abstract

Resilience has emerged as a critical objective for people, communities, and societies all over the world in the face of escalating global challenges. In the face of several domestic and foreign challenges, Sri Lanka is slowly recovering from the severe economic crisis. Achieving sustainable development for the sectors that were the root cause of this crisis is still a fundamental challenge facing Sri Lanka. In the current Debt restructuring process, Central Bank of Sri Lanka has proposed three sectoral reforms to fulfill local debt restructuring. In that, improving the revenue mechanism, rationalizing the expenses, and finding a new revenue sector has been fundamental. In relation to the cost rationalization aspect here, the study revealed that Sri Lanka is largely channeling financial resources to meet its energy needs. Considering the current global trends, several committed responsibilities of Sri Lanka cannot be ignored. Sri Lanka's commitment to achieve 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, as a country directly influenced to climate change and its developing country status compelled Sri Lanka to introduced reforms to the energy sector. Accordingly, this research used qualitative research methods to study the necessity of reforming energy sector to while securing its energy security as primary national interest of the country. The research has done extensive study on the concept of energy security through the lens of International Relations, the assessment of energy status of Sri Lanka, the importance of providing transforming from non- renewable to renewable energy resources in without compromising the energy security of the country. The research concluded with identifying that Societies could actively respond to crises, adapt to changing conditions, and create a resilient future by adopting sustainable practices, and driving sectoral transformations.

Keywords: *Resilience, Sustainable Development, Energy Security, Sectoral Transformation*

Challenges in Reducing Paper Waste in the Sri Lanka Army: Analysis of the Existing Methods

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Abstract

Sri Lanka Army annually consumes large number of papers which include unnecessary consumption. On the other hand, Army while managing the paper consumption is requires continuing with its main standards related with secrecy, efficiency, and effectiveness. By considering all the facts, it has introduced several methods to reduce the paper consumption such as Army Mail System, Web platforms, Data Base Management Systems, and several other methods. However, it is uncertain that the desired reduction has been achieved through the said methods. Hence, this analysis was conducted with the objective of identifying the challenges in adopting existing methods to reduce paper waste in the Sri Lankan Army. The study research was developed based on the deductive approach and mixed method where both qualitative and quantitative methods were used. Accordingly, three personalities have chosen to conduct interviews to collect data for the qualitative aspects and those were analysed using thematic analysis. A structured questionnaire was distributed for 200 military personnel to collect data for quantitative analysis and models were used in analysis. It was identified during the study that lack of facilities such as computers and networking, insufficient skills and careless attitude of related personalities, un-supportive organizational policies and user-unfriendly Web platforms and Data Base Management Systems as main causes in adopting existence methods. Further, conduct of training and awareness programs, organisational policy amendments, modernization of user-interface of e-applications and allocating more vote for establishing basic requirements for paper reduction programs were recommended to overcome identified causes.

Keywords: *Paper Waste, Sri Lanka Army, Data Base Management, Skills, Attitude*

Nexus between Climate Change and Human Security in Sri Lanka: Implications for Small Island Developing States in the Indian Ocean Region

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Abstract

This study explores the interconnectedness of climate change and human security in Sri Lanka and its broader implications for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Indian Ocean region. The research addresses a critical gap in understanding the complex relationship between climate change impacts and the challenges faced by human security in Sri Lanka, with implications for similar vulnerable island nations in the Indian Ocean region. The research problem stems from the recognition that climate change poses substantial risks to human security in Sri Lanka, particularly in SIDS in the Indian Ocean region. The objectives of this research are to analyze the key climate change impacts on human security in Sri Lanka, assess the vulnerability of SIDS in the Indian Ocean region to climate change, and propose policy recommendations to enhance human security. The research methodology involves a qualitative research approach with a comprehensive literature review, analysis of climate and security data, and semi structured interviews with key stakeholders engaged in climate change adaptation and human security efforts. The results demonstrate that climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and poses significant threats to human security in Sri Lanka and other SIDS in the Indian Ocean region. The findings reveal the interconnected nature of climate change impacts and human security challenges, highlighting the necessity of integrated approaches that address social, economic, and environmental dimensions. In conclusion, this study emphasizes the significance of enhancing resilience measures and strategies to protect vulnerable communities and ensure sustainable development in SIDS within the Indian Ocean region.

Keywords: *Climate Change, Human Security, Sri Lanka, Small Island Developing States, Indian Ocean Region*

Comparative Analysis of Clausewitz's and Basil Liddle Hart's Military Theories and Their Applicability in Modern Warfare

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Abstract

The celebrated idea of Prussian war strategist Clausewitz regarding the conventional warfare played a dominant role up to the First World War in the West. In his seminal work "On War", Clausewitz posits "If you want to overcome your enemy, you must match your efforts against the power of resistance". In way his idea was akin to annihilating enemy's army in major battles. However, this idea was challenged by British military strategist Captain Basil Liddle Hart in his book titled "The Strategy" by proposing a different military theory called "Indirect Approach". This objective of this paper is based on making a comparative analysis between Clausewitz and Liddle Hart regarding the utility of their military theories in the modern warfare. While taking a methodology based on a comparative analysis of the utility of the two doctrines, this paper explores the effectiveness of those military strategies against the current asymmetries in modern warfare. In order to buttress the reliability of this research, the examples from Ukrainian war and the Sri Lankan civil war between 1990-2009 would be examined . The main objectivity of this paper lies in creating a novel discussion on the merits and demerits of Clausewitz and Captain Basil Liddle Hart's theories of war in the contemporary warfare. The results emerging from this research will demonstrate the relevance of re reading both Clausewitz and Liddle Hart in an era, where the orthodox idea of warfare is at stake.

Keywords: *Clausewitz, Liddle Hart, Indirect Approach*

A New Dawn for the Middle East: Public Diplomacy and Influence Campaigns in the Middle East

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Abstract

(Ala ho la dan) Look who we are, we are the dreamers - We make it happen cause we believe it “Ala ho la dan” is a cheerful expression which sailors used to sing before starting their journey on the seas of the Arabian Gulf. The lyrics above, which foreground this expression, are from the song “Dreamers”, included in the official Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup Anthem for 2022. The inclusion of these lyrics at such a high-profile event is a tribute to the Arab world’s new approach to public diplomacy. The 2022 FIFA World Cup was more than an exciting event for Qatar and the Arab world. It was a significant milestone in terms of many things, including the economic, environmental, knowledge, and infrastructure development for the entire region. This research is primarily focused on the Public diplomacy and influence campaigns in the Middle East, and it provides an understanding of contemporary soft power strategies in the region. The researcher intends to explore four Soft Power models in the Middle East: Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. The research will be conducted according to a qualitative method and all the information obtained will be secondary data, obtained from resources available.

Keywords: *Arab World, Public Diplomacy, Soft Power*

Evaluating Weather Warfare in Alternative Futures: A Game Changer in Future Power Rivalry

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Abstract

Weather warfare or in other words weather modification, finds its place in warfare history in the past and emerging technologies in the present context. During different eras of the world history amidst been challenged for its legality and environmental impact, weather modifications survived under the shield of scientific purposes. In this backdrop, weather warfare being the elephant in the room in power rivalry, this paper finds it imperative to evaluate its futuristic aspects in terms of alternative futures. Therefore, the problem statement of this paper is to answer the plausibility of weather warfare in alternative futures. In order to find feasible solutions, the methodology adopted in this paper is qualitative based on secondary sources including media and internet and it is further analyzed using the four alternative scenarios for future. The discussion includes to evaluate the usage of weather warfare in the past, elaborate the usage of weather warfare in the present context, to revisit the possible methods of weather warfare based on inventions in the world history, to critically examine the legality of weather warfare and finally to analyze weather warfare as a possible game changer in future world power rivalry. As a result, the main objective of this study is to unveil the plausibility of weather modification as a military strategy in alternative futures with its' possibility to identify as a game changer in world power rivalry.

Keywords: *Weather Warfare, Alternative Futures, Power Rivalry*

Achieving Resilience through Digitalization, Sustainability and Sectoral Transformation – What are the Long Term Strategic Options and Reforms for Sri Lanka Armed Forces

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Abstract

The emergence of intricate superpower rivalry in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has assumed significant economic and political importance within the Indo-Pacific framework. Sri Lanka finds itself situated at the heart of this complex situation. The emergence of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as a significant geopolitical battleground has engendered competition among key global powers, hence exerting profound implications on both the region itself and the international community as a whole. The establishment of the regional security framework relies on the active involvement of India and the United States, with significant contributions from Japan, France, and the United Kingdom. Additionally, the capacity of New Delhi to garner agreement for a multipolar global order and the preservation of unrestricted maritime passage will face scrutiny. Moreover, considering its favourable diplomatic ties with the majority of governments in the Indo-Pacific region, China's stance will have a direct impact on the security dynamics of the Indo-Pacific. Periodic circumstances in Sri Lanka's history have warranted strategic realignment of its instruments of national power to suit changing global and regional power dynamics. Recent global events and regional incidents have pushed Sri Lanka to look inward and among others rethink its Economic, Foreign and Military Grand Strategies. The paper touches upon unconventional/asymmetric warfare, cyber warfare and the use of Intelligence and clandestine operations as an alternative to ensuring national security and a war strategy for numerically inferior smaller states. Clausewitz asserts that the defensive mode of warfare possesses inherent strength surpassing that of the offensive. In order to overcome this formidable defensive strength, Clausewitz contends that an army's most effective weapon is the advantage of superior numerical strength. Based on this theoretical framework, it may be argued that a significant number of countries globally face economic constraints that prevent them from maintaining numerically superior military forces. In his book "Spec Ops," William H. McRaven postulates that smaller forces might attain a position of relative supremacy within limited timeframes. The paper does not establish a connection between the concept of relative supremacy and the instruments of power related to Diplomacy and Foreign Policy, Trade, and Economy. The concept is often emphasised in the military sphere as a feasible path of action.

Keywords: *Relative Strength, Unconventional / Asymmetric Warfare, Numerically Inferior*

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Unleashing the Power of Strategic Communication: A Shield Fortifying National Security

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Abstract

This research paper explores the role of strategic communication as a defense mechanism in the context of national security in Sri Lanka. The paper aims to analyse the significance of strategic communication in shaping public opinion and countering threats in the country. It examines the various strategies and challenges associated with implementing effective strategic communication practices. Through a review of existing literature, case studies, and expert opinions, this research paper provides valuable insights on strategies and methods to overcome the challenges associated with implementing effective strategic communication practices. This research paper focuses on key fundamental research questions as below. What is the significance of strategic communication in shaping public opinion and countering threats within the national security landscape of Sri Lanka? And what are the strategies employed and challenges faced in the implementation of effective strategic communication practices in Sri Lankan context? The research objectives are twofold whereas, to analyse the significance of strategic communication in shaping public opinion, countering threats, and achieving policy objectives in Sri Lanka's national security context. And to examine the strategies employed and challenges faced in the implementation of effective strategic communication practices in the specific socio-political context of Sri Lanka. By addressing these research questions and objectives, study intends to provide valuable insights into the application of strategic communication as a defense mechanism used in national security in concluding remarks.

Keywords: *Strategic Communication, National Security, Sri Lanka*

Heroes Behind the Hazmat: Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Combat Engineers Dominating the Pandemic Battlefield

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Abstract

In the midst of a global pandemic, the role of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) combat engineers is crucial in mitigating its impact. This article aims to explore the multifaceted contributions of CBRN combat engineers in Corps of Sri Lanka Engineers Regiment (SLE) pandemic mitigation. This research paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the role of CBRN combat engineers during a pandemic, examining their contributions, challenges faced, and recommendations for enhancing their effectiveness in pandemic response efforts in Sri Lanka Army. The research questions addressed are: How do CBRN combat engineers contribute to pandemic mitigation through their various responsibilities? What challenges do CBRN combat engineers face during a pandemic, and how can their effectiveness in pandemic response be improved? The research objectives involve analysing the roles and responsibilities of CBRN combat engineers such as quarantine zone establishment, decontamination protocols, and CBRN hazard assessment. Additionally, the study aims to identify challenges faced by CBRN combat engineers and propose strategies to enhance their effectiveness in pandemic response efforts. By employing a mixed-methods approach, including literature review, interviews, and empirical data collection, this research seeks to provide valuable insights into the critical contributions and potential improvements in the role of CBRN combat engineers during a pandemic. In conclusion, CBRN combat engineers are crucial in pandemic response, managing quarantine zones, decontamination, and CBRN hazards etc. By addressing challenges and providing better support and coordination, their effectiveness can be enhanced. Investing in their training and resources prepares them for future pandemics, safeguarding communities. Strengthening their role ensures a resilient response and improved global outcomes.

Keywords: *Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear, Combat Engineer, Effectiveness Enhancement*

The Use of Soft Power in the Diplomacy of the Holy See

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Abstract

The Holy See, the governing body of the Catholic Church, stands out in the international arena as a unique entity that combines a political structure with a religious institution. The Holy See currently maintains diplomatic relations with 183 countries and enjoys the status of a Permanent Observer at the United Nations Organisation. In addition to being an influential religious institution, the Holy See is also the oldest continuously operating international organisation in the world. The primary objectives of the Holy See are spiritual, moral and humanitarian in nature and it does not pursue military objectives and lacks the conventional tools of hard power that determine the prominence of a state on the international stage. Nevertheless, the Holy See distinguishes itself from other states through the use of Joseph Nye's concept of soft power in its diplomatic relations. The Holy See employs soft power through a network of churches, social and educational institutions spread across the globe. The Holy See is utilising soft power in a wide range of domains, including conflict resolution, climate change, inter-religious dialogue, nuclear disarmament and refugee crisis. The Pope exercises soft power through Papal visits and by shaping the opinions of 1.3 billion Catholics on contemporary issues. This research focuses on how the smallest state in the world has utilised soft power effectively to achieve its diplomatic goals. This research predominantly utilises the qualitative methodology and data is collected from both primary and secondary sources.

Keywords: *Diplomacy, Holy See, Soft Power*

Potential Expansion of Sri Lanka's Ports to Optimize Advantages from Global Supply Chain

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Abstract

Sri Lanka is located strategically at a historic east-west shipping passageway. Since historic times, the Sri Lankan ports acted as transits for cargo travelling across the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. The Maritime Silk Route was a vital component of trade as far back as the 15th Century. The expansion of the Global Supply Chain calls for many adjoining regional ports to develop significantly. Upon analysis, Sri Lanka showed many infrastructural and geopolitical barriers to active engagement with the Supply Chain flowing from China and India. The geographical location and the nature of the container traffic in the Indian Ocean both pointed to the comparative advantage through active interaction with the adjoining ports and maritime routes. Data analysis of both Hambantota and Colombo Ports revealed the potential of the Sri Lankan ports at their current capacity. Total utilization of the infrastructure and potential for the advancement of logistical and operational activities like warehouses to store fragile cargo, value addition lines within the limitations of the harbour and the digitalization of Port Activities are elaborated. These facilities will influence more global engagement with the commercial Ports of Sri Lanka to connect with emerging markets and value chains. This commitment to drive transshipment cargo efficiently towards the country contributes directly to the national income and boosts Sri Lanka's presence in the Asian Region as a center for trade, to better engage with the global supply chain.

Keywords: *Supply Chain, Transshipment Cargo, Ports*

Post Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam Threat in Sri Lanka; Change in *Modus Operandi*

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Abstract

This paper discusses the ongoing threat posed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and its supporters, following its defeat in Sri Lanka's civil war in 2009. The paper explores the LTTE's new tactics, including the use of online falsehoods, lobbying, law making, and litigation. In recent years, the LTTE has been actively engaging in political lobbying, both domestically and internationally, to advance its separatist agenda. Additionally, the LTTE has made use of online platforms to spread propaganda, disinformation, and fake news to further its cause. This shift in the modus operandi by the LTTE reflects a broader trend towards non-violent activism and the use of modern communication technologies. The study intends to highlight the fact that LTTE has changed the conventional war tactic mode, therefore Sri Lanka should take measure to protect the country and its national security from LTTE's new modus operandi. Through qualitative research methods, including a literature review, expert interviews, and case studies, the paper highlights the need for Sri Lanka and the international community to address this threat seriously. The research findings reveal that the LTTE's supporters have shifted their tactics to spread propaganda and misinformation, lobby governments and international organizations, and engage in law making and litigation to challenge Sri Lanka's sovereignty. The paper recommends a comprehensive approach that includes countering online falsehoods through public awareness campaigns, combating lobbying efforts through engagement with governments and international organizations, and defending against legal challenges through legal means. The paper concludes that the LTTE's change in modus operandi presents a significant threat to Sri Lanka's stability and sovereignty and emphasizes the need for Sri Lanka to remain vigilant and take action to counter this threat effectively.

Keywords: *Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Online Falsehood, Lobbying, Law Making, Litigation*

Geographic Information System Mechanism for the Terrain Overlay of the Intelligence Preparation of Battlefield Process

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Abstract

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) could be identified as a leading geospatial analysis system which able to apply for multiple purposes. Spatial Information analysing for the military applications by using GIS technology is the trend of the modern warfare. Intelligence Preparation of Battlefield (IPB) is the process of defining the battlefield environment that supports commander's decision making process. The Sri Lankan military is far behind in using digital technology in comparison to defense forces of other countries. The design of this research was accomplished reviewing the existing IPB process in Sri Lanka and developing a GIS based IPB model using model builder application of Arc GIS software. By leveraging GIS technology, this research seeks to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of IPB through the utilization of geospatial data and advanced analytical capabilities. This study based on land use data, soil data, elevation data, road network, military deployment and water bodies covering the whole country and create the terrain, weather overlays of the IPB process. Final output contains go, no go, slow go areas of the terrain using GIS technology accurately compared to the manual process. Therefore suggest utilizing this product efficiently for the spatial analysis tasks in the military exercises and operations.

Keywords: *Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield, Geographic Information System, Model Builder*

Maritime Choke Points and its Impact on Global Economy A Comprehensive Analysis

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Abstract

The global energy transportation system is vulnerable to interruption at critical marine choke points such as the Malacca and Singapore Straits, Bab Al-Mandab, the Suez Canal, the Turkish Straits, and the Strait of Hormuz. The impact of an interruption on energy supply, pricing, and markets is determined by its scope and duration. Price level and volatility are heavily influenced by perceptions and the interplay of the 'wet barrel' and 'paper barrel' markets. Measures to close international straits are typically unlawful in peacetime, and international law mandates that transit rights be maintained during wartime. Therefore, the researcher intends to study the economic and strategic importance of maritime choke points and to suggest the alternative regulations to strengthen the stability of these choke points. The qualitative study is conducted as a secondary exploratory research where the researcher gathered information from previously published primary research due to the limited accessibility to primary data within the country. Researcher finds that, it is critical to establish and sustain legal and political standards governing the security of maritime choke points including user states, consumer states, and international agencies. Cooperative arrangements between coastal states can boost trust, while business and government initiatives to minimize their consequences can lessen the chance of purposeful disruptions. The security of maritime choke points ultimately depends on the enforcement of international law, as well as the desire and capacity of interested members of the international community to do so if necessary.

Keywords: *Choke Points, Global Energy Trade, Maritime Security*

Understanding the Geopolitical Rivalry between India and China in South Asia: Implications for Regional Stability and Power Dynamics

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Abstract

The geopolitical rivalry between India and China in South Asia has significant implications for regional stability and power dynamics. Unwanted pressure and the struggle for power has been directly involving with regional stability in various aspects including political, economic and social security. This research paper intends to identify the geopolitical rivalry between India and China in South Asia and its significant implications for regional stability and power dynamics. Through a meticulous examination of historical contexts, investment strategies and competing interests, this study aims to uncover the complex layers of the India-China rivalry to understand how it impact on regional stability in South Asia. By employing a mixed-method approach that combines qualitative and quantitative methods, including literature reviews, policy analyses, and case studies, this research paper elucidates the drivers and strategies employed by both countries in their competition for regional influence. The findings emphasized several key areas of contention, such as territorial disputes, economic projects, and military posturing, while exploring potential consequences and scenarios for regional cooperation or conflict. Moreover, this study sheds light on the responses of other South Asian countries to the rivalry and the role of external actors in shaping outcomes. Based on the findings, this research paper provides recommendations for promoting regional stability, including diplomatic engagement, dialogue, and confidence-building measures. This research further contributes to a deeper understanding of the multifaceted dynamics of the India-China rivalry in South Asia, serving as a foundation for analysis and policy discussions on regional security, cooperation, and power balance in the region.

Keywords: *China, India, Geopolitical Rivalry, Regional Stability, South Asia*

Impact of Kalinga Maga Invasion in Sri Lanka History

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Abstract

This article analyzes the political situation after the Kalinga Magha invasion, focusing on the Kingdom of Polonnaruwa, which became a final city in AD 1017. The 38th dynasty of King Mihindu V attacked Sri Lanka, taking Polonnaruwa as their control center. King Vijayabahu I conquered and ruled Polonnaruwa, followed by strong rulers like Parakramabahu I and Nisshanka Malla. However, Polonnaruwa collapsed in 1215 AD due to weak rulers and power struggles. The invasion of Kalinga Magha led to the departure of Rajarata's nobles, monks, and common people. The country was anarchic without a king, with regional control centers built by Bhuvanekabahu Adipadat, Minipe Sankha Senavit, Subha Senavit, and Vijayabahut III. The Vanni kingdom formed in the Rajara. This thesis aims to study the impact of Magha's invasion using qualitative data analysis, primary and secondary literature sources, and interviews.

Keywords: *Impact, Struggle, Maga*

National Security Policy 2030: Internal and External Challenges

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Abstract

Sri Lanka has been gaining a lot more attention from the great powers USA, China, and India due to its geopolitical location. It has been caught in the power rivalry of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Therefore, it is crucially important for Sri Lanka to have a national security policy to address security threats with reference to the present context. This paper examines the importance of having a new national security policy in Sri Lanka and its effectiveness by referring to the drafted national security document for 2030. The research was done using qualitative data by collecting data through books, articles, journals referring to the library, and online articles and journals through websites. The analysis looks at official papers, modernization strategies, capabilities, and strategic alliances. This study examines whether the drafted strategic goals, aims and potential ramifications of the National Security Policy would be effective by 2030. It further examines how the policy affects regional security dynamics and the efficiency of cooperative and strategic alliances. The need to address internal threats, strengthen infrastructure resilience, and promote collaboration between stakeholders is crucial. Diplomatic engagement, cooperative foreign policies, and integrating non-traditional security concerns are also essential. Continuous assessment, foresight, and adaptation are crucial for a safer, more secure world. The research will be beneficial for policymakers, analysts, and academics in understanding Sri Lanka's national security and how it fits with the changing regional security environment. This paper concludes with suggestions to improve the national security policy by the government through military dialogues and diplomacy.

Keywords: *National Security Policy, Sri Lanka, Security Threats, Strategies, Effectiveness*

An Assessment on Security Challenges Posed by Muslim and Sinhala Buddhist in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

This study was conducted with the aim of addressing the dearth of comprehensive research on the internal and external factors driving violent extremism in Muslim enclaves in majority Sinhala Buddhists regions of the country. The main types of data collected for the study was qualitative data. Qualitative data from the study was collected from in-depth interviews with the selected sample. Sample participants selected for the study consisted of religious and community leaders in Muslim enclaves in Mawanalla, Sample size was limited to ten religious and community leaders living in Muslim enclaves in Mawanella. Data collected from the sample participant was analyzed using thematic analysis. Analysis of participants responses to questions relating to internal factors driving Muslim enclaves in Buddhist majority areas to violent extremism revealed several themes. These themes are namely political factors, lack of trust between Sinhala and Muslim communities, activities of extremist religions groups, religious teaching, culture and religious differences, law enforcement, leadership failure, land and other resource disputes, economic issues, majority/minority concerns, and demographic factors. Based on the analysis of data from participant responses to questions relating to the external factors driving Muslim enclaves in Sinhala Buddhist majority areas to violent extremism several themes were identified by the researcher. These themes were international support, international influence, and teaching of foreign ideologies.

Keywords: *Muslim and Sinhala Extremism, Enclaves, Internal factors and External factors*

Marine Environmental Pollution: A Case Study on the Indian Ocean Region

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Abstract

The Indian Ocean is the world's third largest ocean, covering around 20 percent of the earth's water surface. It extends northward to South Asia, westward to Africa and Arabia, eastward to Southeast Asia and Australia, and southward to Antarctica. It boasts a diverse flora and fauna, with 9 of the 36 biodiversity hotspots, including Madagascar, located in the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean, like practically every other body of water on the planet, is immune to alarming levels of marine pollution. Therefore, a problem arises to find reasons for this marine environmental pollution in the Indian Ocean Region. The significance of this research is that it provides an understanding of the factors contributing to marine environmental pollution in the Indian Ocean Region and the contribution of international, regional, and national organizations to mitigate this problem. Identifying reasons for marine environmental pollution in the Indian Ocean Region, and identifying the contribution of international, regional, and national organizations toward this problem are the objectives purported to achieve by this research. To achieve a holistic outcome, the research utilizes secondary data, including data collected from previous research, articles, and books related to this research problem. Finally, the research will demonstrate chemical pollution, oil pollution, and plastic pollution as factors contributing to marine environmental pollution in the Indian Ocean Region, while also highlighting the contribution of international, regional, and national organizations to mitigate this problem.

Keywords: *Marine, Environmental, Pollution, Indian Ocean*

The Impact of Biological and Chemical Warfare on Human Security: A Humanitarian Law Perspective

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Abstract

The industrial revolution, scientific inventions and technology has made tasks more convenient and efficient. Nonetheless, it has opened avenues for modernized, sophisticated security threats. Developments related to bio-chemical agents in warfare is a critical human security challenge and has the ability to threaten health security, food security, environmental security, community security and personal security. Jeopardizing aforementioned fields, paves the way for destabilized economy and politics in a country. The bio-chemical agents have a strong ability to cause superficial damage to any object that contacts the substance. It can cause both long-term and short-term injuries. Severity of damages caused by bio-chemical agents are evident from the experiences of soldiers at war zones. Considering the destructive nature of deadly bio-chemical agents, the International Humanitarian Law has imposed barriers for warring parties to use bio-chemical agents. However, regardless of the destructive impacts of bio-chemical agents, it can be noted that State and non-State actors deploy bio-chemical weapons in battle zones. Acquisition of bio-chemical agents by non-State groups pose even greater security threat in modern day. Per contra, States which conducted development programs on bio-chemical weapons are suspected to retain their stockpiles regardless of its adverse impacts. Given the above, this study aims to explore the impact of bio-chemical warfare on human security from a humanitarian law perspective by investigating the following questions: What are the impacts to human security from bio-chemical warfare? What are the setbacks of humanitarian law in safeguarding individuals from bio-chemical warfare? Further, the study takes up a qualitative approach and based majorly on secondary data sources. Moreover, study utilizes human security concept to analyze impacts of bio-chemical warfare on human security.

Keywords: *Bio-chemical Agents, Humanitarian Law, Human Security, State and Non-State Actors*