

## **Border Security-Challenges Ahead**

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### **Abstract**

*The end of cold war did not usher in a climate of peace and security on the other hand it has ushered in a climate of uncertainty with many critical issues like terrorism, environmental degradation and a host of other issues having a direct nexus with the concept of national security. Border Security cannot be considered in isolation divorced from the overall security scenario. Competition for regional harmony, globalization, disintegration of nation states, Info-Tech revolution, instability in international financial system are some major factors. For India the major state players from whom military threats may arise are China and Pakistan. India has to address itself to the emerging set of challenges in the changed world order.*

**Key Words:-***Ecological degradation, National security, Globalization, ,Fragmentation, Hegemony*

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## **Introduction**

Border Security cannot be considered in isolation divorced from the overall security scenario today and the emerging patterns in the immediate and foreseeable future. The end of cold war did not usher in a climate of peace and security. On the other hand it has ushered in a climate of uncertainty with many critical issues like ethnicity ,terrorism, environmental degradation and a host of other issues having a direct nexus with the concept of national security. Concept of nation states and the inviolability of national borders are increasingly being contested.Globalisation ,revolution in business affairs ,revolution in military affairs,concept of battle fields ,emergence of non-state players as major threats to nations.Ecological degradation and demographic explosion becoming direct threats and a host of other issues dictate that physical security of the borders is not the only one and probably not even the most important guarantor of national security.

Syndicate columnist Charles Krauthanners states the most striking feature of the post-cold war. World was initsuni-polarity.In perhaps another generation or so,there will be great powers coequal to the US, and the worldwill then in restructure resemble the pre-World War I era.But we are not there yet,nor will be for decades .Now is the unipolar moment.However,unipolarity will not be permanent .There is emergence of new centres of power and even India plays a dominant role in the South Asian region.

Competition for regional hegemony and regional dominance has also lead to regional tensions. The European Union,North America Free trade Association,Association of South-East Asian nations.South Asian Preferential T Trade Association etc generate special interest grouping among nations.

Simultaneous operation of the opposite trends of globalization and fragmentation is very dangerous .On the one hand the world is becoming a global village,demolishing national boundaries while on the other hand is the spectre of disintegration of nature states into separate splinter entities along cultural, ethnic, religious fault lines.

Concept of nation state is being increasingly eroded and ethnic nationalism is gaining ground and threatening nation states.Multi-ethnic ,multi- racial ,multi-linguistic states like India are the natural grounds for the process of politicisation of the issue of ethnicity and ethnisation of politics.This leads to internal stability.

Though it may be utopian to aspire for total eradication of ethnic aspirations,proper social,economic and political management of the issue complemented by intelligence effort and preventive measures would prevent its

metamorphosis into a stage threatening national integrity.

In the era of liberalism and technological advancement we find an enduring paradox of revival of communal separation and fundamentalism.

End of cold war, globalisation, info-tech revolution and acceptance of the market economy by majority of nations including communist states dictate that nations may not go to war over ideology or forms of government. However conflicts will continue on issues other than ideology.

War may be fought on humanitarian grounds to uphold human rights of citizens of other countries, to prevent genocide and large scale violation of human rights. These will be termed as wars of conscience.

The financial revolution presents its own challenges to the sovereignty of the state. The borderless cyber world implies a certain surrender of a nation's control over its own monetary and fiscal control. Globalized economy may bring in prosperity, but in case of instability in international financial system, there is little or no control over potential massive currency outflow.

Advances in digital communication and power of interest have created a borderless cyber state. The proliferation of the satellite TV has also dealt severe blow to the concept of the nation state.

Internationalizing of manufacturing and finance erodes the state's capacity to control its own affairs. Multi-national companies and Non-governmental organizations transcend national boundaries exercising immense power over nations. Multi-National Companies with their immense clout influence policies. The profit driven global economy has no concern with social justice.

For India the major state players from whom military threats may arise are China and Pakistan.

The most important facet of the regional security environment is Pakistan's continued hostility to India. Having fought India in 1947, 1965 and 1971, then Kargil and recent so many ceasefire violations.

Pakistan strategy related to India appears to be four pronged:-

- a) Abet insurgency in India
- b) Pre-position sympathisers, arms and ammunitions in the interior to threaten rear area security
- c) Mobilize Islamic fundamentalists
- d) Prepare for military confrontation with India.

Due to the nuclear stand-off conventional break out battles and seizures of

large tracts of territory by both countries are ruled out. Therefore more reliance would be on proxy wars through non state players.

Due to geographical position, the bulk of narcotic substances are smuggled as India is a transit route. Trade in Narcotics being major source of finance for militant terrorist movements. The narcotics traffic is highly organized, aided and abetted by both state and non-state players. ISI of Pakistan is involved very much in this activity to generate funds for various activities.

Problems of illegal migration from Bangladesh, its causative factors and effect on socio-economic and political plans to own country is also very serious.

India has to resolutely address itself to the emerging set of challenges and opportunities in the changes world order in a coordinated and comprehensive framework of paramount importance. It would be its ability to project its (long-term) strategic perspectives and interests in responding to the interplay of domestic imperatives, regional balance of forces and global dynamics in the coming decades.

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