

## **ABSTRACT**

The world has moved into a new century and new millennium, where some issues and trends are entailing an innovatory reformation of world politics. In other words, they are shaking the globe and restructuring the way it functions. And the Nuclear Proliferation is one of the foremost issues of the century that has created the strong impact on the trend towards international relations. It is the anarchical, self-help and conflicting nature of political world that makes weapons' possession essential for states. And since nuclear weapons have changed the whole phenomenon of power, war, peace and security once for all, to hold these weapons is the eternal right of every nation-state now. No one, particularly United States of America, can exclude them from this right. Should nations possess nuclear weapons or not possess them? is such a critical question that, in recent years, has generated a debate between opponents and advocates of the spread of nuclear weapons. So far all the academic research supports the side that apposes the nuclear proliferation that is to say, it has endangered the global peace and stability.

In order to give broader understanding of the topic this study, being the first at M.Phil level of its kind in Pakistan, covers both the arguments of opponents and advocates at one place. More specifically, it is an effort to judge and analyze the issue from all its aspects comprehensively, particularly by the aspect that has and can create absolute positive impact on international relations in future. It, in the context of global peace, seeks to highlight the historical and theoretical perspective of the phenomenon of nuclear proliferation its causes and consequences. That is to say, the thesis attempts to prove that in today's political world of realism nuclear weapons have certainly turned out to be the source of power in tem of defense and stability and have been proved themselves as peace keepers. The research, by providing empirical evidences, tries to prove nuclear proliferation as deterrent force. It, on the basis of nuclear weapons' defensive aptitudes, supports their spread as guarantor for world peace and stability. The whole study presents both global and regional evidences side by side.