

## ABSTRACT

This is the study of nuclear weapons and their role in interstate relations: A case study of India and Pakistan. Different realist concepts of international relations like nuclear deterrence, nuclear brinkmanship, and nuclear coercion are used in this research. After a comprehensive study of realist theoretical concepts and a review of the literature, a theoretical framework was formulated. Secondary data was obtained from national and international journals, books, articles, and authentic online websites archives. Descriptive analytical case study research methods were used to find the role of nuclear weapons in interstate relations, diplomacy, state behaviors, and territorial integrity. Results show that nuclear weapons have changed the dynamics of strategic stability between India and Pakistan; balance of conventional power to the balance of resolve. Both states have become more aggressive and show their resolve to each other by starting a limited war conflict which might turn into a nuclear exchange in the absence of third-party mediation. The role of the decision-making process is crucial during a nuclear crisis to escalate or de-escalate the crisis. Findings also states that nuclear states initiate nuclear brinkmanship to make the threat credible and also play also play a vital role in coercive diplomacy and psychological variables; the integrity of the state and aggression; which are the key element for the success of coercive diplomacy. Nuclear weapons also shape the doctrines of nuclear states and the findings of the research were compared and analyzed with the work of national and international scholars.