

# ABSTRACT

At the end of the Cold War between Communism and Capitalism the world has become a more peaceful place. With an entire array of military and non-military Confidence Building Measures taken by the countries of East and West in order to bring confidence of peaceful co-existence and security in a highly nuclear world. Globalization has brought peace and economic prosperity. Old rivals are busy interacting in politico-economic and socio-cultural fields as well as negotiating treaties for nuclear disarmament in the world. But not in South Asia where there is an atmosphere of confrontation, ideological hatred and perpetual mistrust.

Since their Independence India and Pakistan have fought three limited wars and a number of cross-border skirmishes. Since their independence India and Pakistan started an arms race. Both these countries of South Asia have spent colossal amount of resources on military built up. Now these two rivals have gone nuclear. In both India and Pakistan there are war hawks and political parties with extremist agendas that propagate the philosophy of confrontation and hatred towards each other.

As military expenditures in both nations are going up during the past 54 years, the economic deprivation, poverty and economic backwardness of a vast number of their populations is increasing.

It has been seen that as the peace doves in India and Pakistan have at the same time in the past also kept on the dialogue of peace and friendship. The governments, the officials in their official as well as their unofficial capacity, the business community, the cultural elite as well as people themselves at all levels maintained an array of CBMs in the field of military, political, economic and cultural relations. These CBMs have helped to recede the threat of nuclear or conventional confrontation between these two nations.

Because the nuclear threat in the region is very real, under the situation it is important that the policy makers and saner elements in both countries should induce Confidence Building Measures between each other. CBMs should be initiated at all levels - military, political (Track-I, Track-II and Track-III diplomacy), economic, cultural and people-to-people contacts in order to bring the confrontation between these two South Asian rivals down.

It is important that the governments of the two countries should become part of the globalization process, increase economic cooperation. They should bring down their military expenditures in order to channel much needed resources from defense towards economic prosperity in the region. It is important that the people of South Asia should live in peace, have political and economic security and reduce poverty and illiteracy levels so that the region should develop and prosper.

Whether this happens or there is extinction and inhalation for India and Pakistan would depend on political will, economic necessity, democratic institution and a wish for security and prosperity by the people of the two countries. Also issues like Kashmir would have to be resolved through a process of dialogue and understanding on both sides.