

Analysis the Main Characteristics and Dynamics of Sub-Regional Security Complex of South Asia¹

Mohammad Tarequl Islam

*Deputy Police Commissioner, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, Rajshahi, Bangladesh
Corresponding Email- tareqsapnil@gmail.com*

Abstract: The South Asian region keeps much importance for its strategic geographical location, political movement, economic instability and historical culture. Despite common regional heritage, culture, history, social practices and colonial legacy, South Asia has significant regional security dynamics and complexity. The regional security complexity focused on India–Pakistan confrontation and rivalry due to territorial and non-territorial disputes. However, the study observes, India is the dominant actor in this region due to material supremacy, but the bilateral relationship between India and other neighbouring countries is mistrust which adversely affects the geopolitics at the regional level. Moreover, the existence and connection of many state and non-state actors in the region have increased the strategic security complexity of the region. Besides, the South Asian contains much attention due to hold the nuclear power in India and Pakistan, which added a new security paradigm in this region. The rise of China, also a critical issue in South Asia's security complexity. Further, the involvement and engagement of the major global powers like the United States, Russia and China along with the global partnership and other regional and international institutions have abstracted the focus of the world towards this region. On the other hand, 1.88 billion people of this region also face enormous challenges of non-traditional security issues such as climate change, poverty, human and drug trafficking, illegal arms and religious extremism which are highly significant for sustainability of this region. Though South Asia is highly concern about traditional security issues but non-traditional security threats should be considered with close attention because of their destructive nature.

Key words: Security , Complexity, India, Pakistan, regional, sub-regional and South Asia

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I. INTRODUCTION

South Asia the home of one fourth world population and covers 3.5 percent of the world's land surface comprises of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Despite common regional heritage, culture, history, social practices and colonial legacy, South Asia has significant regional security dynamics and complexity. South Asia is highly characterised by massive arrays of territorial and non-territorial disputes which mainly focused on India–Pakistan confrontation and rivalry (Barthwal and Basu, 2017, Dahal 2003). Due to multiple interstate disputes the region has been witnessed several wars (India-Pakistan war in 1948, 1965, 1971) and warlike situations (Kargil war 1999) since 1947 and often creates international research attention and tension (Karim 2013, Khan 2013). Additionally, the base of the bilateral relationship between India and other neighbouring countries is mistrust which adversely affects the geopolitics at the regional level. Besides, the nuclear power in India and Pakistan added a new security paradigm in this region. Furthermore, the rise of China, also a critical issue in South Asia's security complexity (Jetly 2012). Nevertheless, after 9/11, South Asian security dynamics dramatically changed, since the presence of the US and international powers in Afghanistan. Though, the emergence of India as a regional power, Chinese economic-political interest and the US presence has formed a super-complex security dimension in South Asia. On the other hand, 1.88 billion people (World Bank 2018) of this region also faces enormous challenges of non-traditional security issues such as climate change, poverty, human and drug trafficking, illegal arms and religious extremism which are highly significant for sustainability of this region (Kher 2012, Sen et al. 2017, UNDOC 2013).

The present study explains the regional security complex (RSC) in South Asia (SA), which especially emphasises the security dynamics between India and Pakistan. Firstly, the study clarifies the regionalism and sub-regionalism with the emergence of South Asia as a form of sub-region. Secondly, the essay describes how

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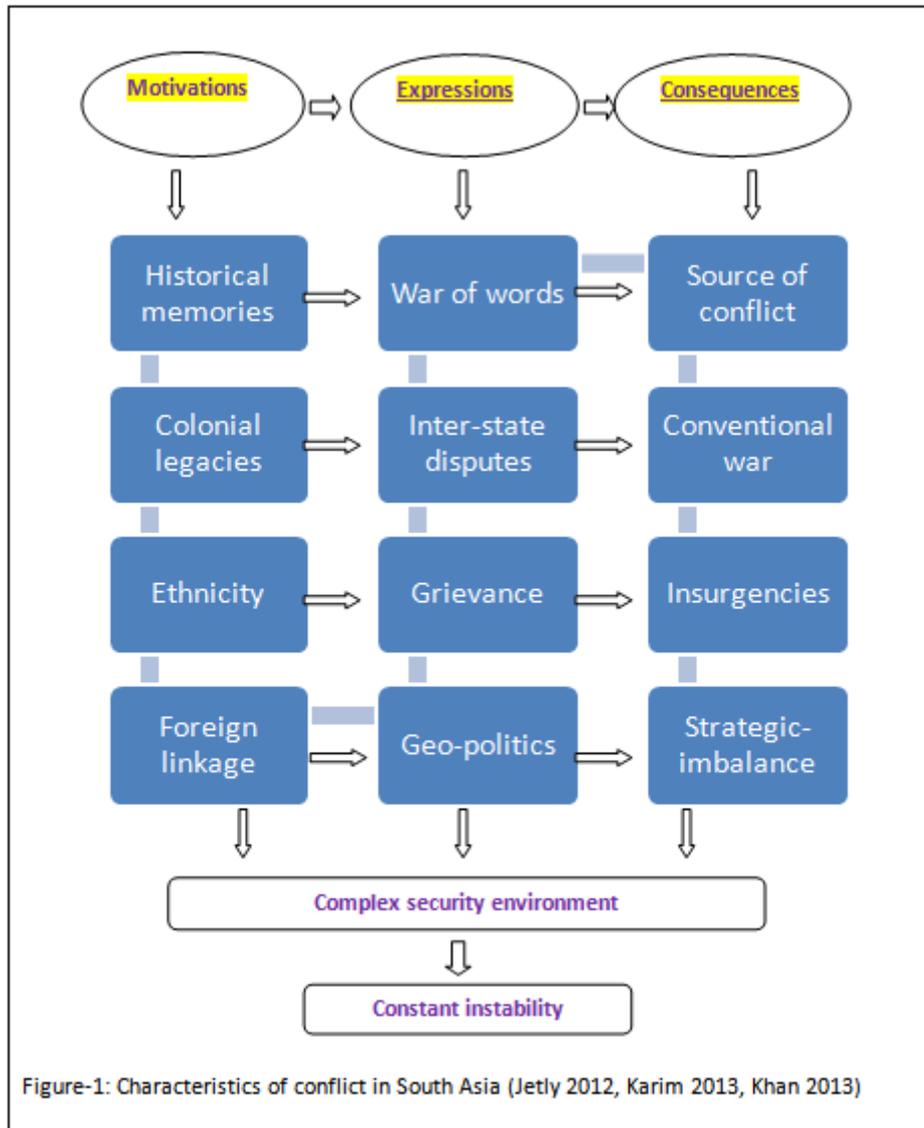
the region is so 'critical region with complex security', which mentions the intra-regional conflict and bilateral disputes in SA. Thirdly the study give-details on inter-regional security complexity, mainly address the rise of China and its policy and influence over this region. Moreover, this part also addresses the issue of 'war on terror' and post 9/11 regional security dynamics. Fourthly the article mentions South Asia's RSC linkage and interest at the global level. This part includes India's dominance over the region, recent trends of India-USA strategic relation for balancing China, South Asia interest with East Asia, Central Asia and global politics. Lastly, the essay explains the significance of non-traditional security issues as well as the human security threat in this region and emphasise on the regional cooperation for sustainable South Asia.

II. APPROACH TO REGIONALISM AND SUB-REGIONALISM: SOUTH ASIAN SECURITY PARADIGM

The emergence of regionalism and sub-regionalism placed in a broader historical perspective. The concept of regionalism and sub-regionalism have developed the basis of thrust on peace, security and development through recognition and steady escalation of economic and cultural bindings among the geographically neighbouring areas (Acharya 2012, Bevir 2009). Regionalism is a political movement, transnational cooperation to achieve a common goal or resolve a common problem or it refers to a group of countries. The European Union (EU) is the best example of regionalism (Stoker 2011). Ravenhill (2009) defined regionalism as "intergovernmental collaboration on a geographically restricted basis". On the other hand, sub-region is a subset of countries and belongs to a region which has some common history and cultural values. Some scholars define sub-regionalism as a relationship between larger-region (regionalism) and smaller-regions (sub-region). For example, the relationship between Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation-APEC (region) and a smaller region East Asia (sub-region) (Phillips 2003). However, post-cold war is characterised by the development of regionalism and plurality of actors as the regional organisation extended the cooperation in regional level to sub -regional level to avoid regional tensions (Buzan and Wörber 2003). So the ending of bipolarity increased the regionalism and provided autonomy of regional security dynamics (Miller 2007).

In 1980, Bangladesh proposed the concept of institutionalised regional cooperation in South Asia for mutual political, security and economic benefit through regionalism (Dash 1996). Initially, the smaller country Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka of this region accepted the proposal, but India and Pakistan showed a different view. Indian policymaker thought that the proposed cooperation might 'gang up' against India in-regards to bilateral issues', in-contrast Pakistan believed that the concept might strengthen Indian economic dominance over the region. However, SAARC has emerged as a sub-regional organisation in 1985 comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (Lebow 1997). Due to the interest of US and India, Afghanistan had been incorporated in SAARC in 2007 (Karim 2013) and now SAARC is the world largest regional group. Nevertheless, from the beginning, SAARC excluded bilateral and contentious issues which have limited the organisation's efficiency. But bilateralism, usually the foundation in weaving positional relationship, is specifically related to South Asia (Ahmed 2016). Besides this, a certain extent of multilateralism also exists in this region, but it has long been marginalised. So the regional body SAARC is showing to be dysfunctional due to lack of adequate multilateral cooperation mechanisms (Ashraf and Akhir 2016, Thapa 2016).

Furthermore, the Geo-strategic position in South Asia in the globe is a region of great significance. Its closeness to the Middle East, especially in the Persian Gulf region and Central Asian states, makes it not only important to the great powers but remarkably observable to the rest of the world. The regional security complex in South Asia has formed from cultural diversity; religious differences, ethnic variation and British colonial legacy. The region has particular significance due to the critical centre of Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism and Islam. However, South Asian regional security paradigm characterised by the dominance of India, and the rivalry between India-Pakistan and mistrust between India and other neighbours which determined a high level of conflict in this region (Figure-1) (Barthwal and Basu 2017).



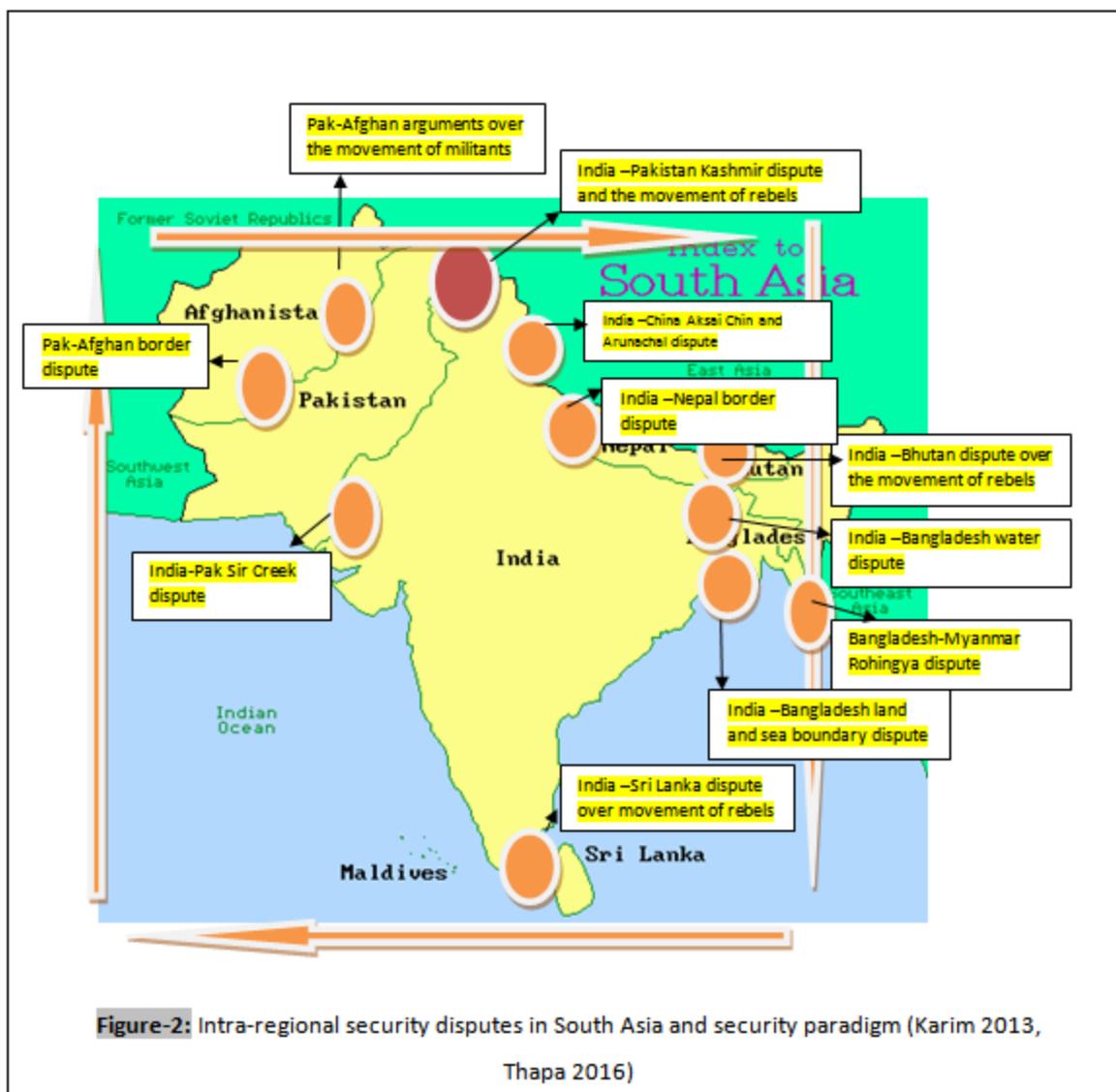
III. SOUTH ASIAN SECURITY COMPLEX IN INTRA-REGIONAL LEVEL

South Asia refers to a 'critical region with complex security' in the world for a number of intrastates and interstate conflict. Even inter-state conflict probably is the highest, compare than another region of the world (Ahmed and Bhatnagar 2008). So during the visit to South Asia, President Bill Clinton mentioned, "South Asia had become the most dangerous place on earth"² (BBC 2000). However, the security dynamics context in South Asia mostly India-Pakistan confrontation and the India centric regional disputes (See Figure-2). Barry Buzan's RSC honestly addressed 'South Asia dilemma resulted from the bilateral conflict between Pakistan and India' (Buzan 2011). The bilateral disputes between India and Pakistan led three times war in this region (1948, 1965 and 1971) along with many low-intensity conflicts in the border. The most significant issues, such as Kashmir, Sir Creek, Siachen, are not solved yet. Other India centric issues such as the nationality of Tamil and Tibet, open border issue for Nepal, transit and water for Bangladesh and other bilateral territorial disputes are the notable barriers towards regional cooperation. Moreover, India's regional supremacy attitudes with small neighbouring countries lead to competition instead of cooperation. Besides this, the RSC shifted to the new dimension when India and Pakistan successfully conducted the nuclear test in 1998. Though nuclearisation of

² "Analysis: The world's most dangerous place," BBC News, March 23, 2000. Available at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/687021.stm

India and Pakistan provided a relative regional balance of power between the two most rival nations in this region, it's created high international tension and increased security significance of the region (Wagner 2018). Furthermore, South Asia having severe political complexities from cultural diversity like languages, religions and ethnicities, prevent the region from uniting. Most importantly, the religious factor has a significant influence in South Asia's political security. However, the area is characterised by different political systems; like democracy, authoritarian, military dictatorships and monarchies. The country like Pakistan and Bangladesh were ruled mainly by the military, and still now military have substantial influence over the civilian government. In addition Bangladesh faced a light-armed conflict in the Chittagong Hill Tracts for two decades (1977-1997). Political instability, poor governance and corruption are also the other important security challenges for Bangladesh (Mohsin 2006). Besides, security tension between Bangladesh and Myanmar profoundly has increased in recent days due to the Rohingya refugee crisis. Approximately 900,500 Rohingya people were forcibly displaced from Myanmar to Bangladesh due to torture, killing and ethnic clanging. This Rohingya refugee crisis frequently creates tension over the border and also forms international attention (USAID 2018). In contrast, Pakistan is facing severe intrastate security challenges due to terrorism and extremism. Moreover, the instability in Afghanistan is the burning issue for the stability of Pakistan. On the other hand, India is the leading actor in this region as the largest democracy in the world has different intra-conflicts which are critical challenges for the country's stability. Firstly, the long-run separatist movements in Kashmir, Punjab, Assam, Nagaland and Mizoram since 1947. Secondly, India has suffered a prolonged period due to Leftist armed movement (Naxalite movement) in many states. Thirdly, the terrorist threat (Mumbai attack 2008), communal riot (Gujarat) and civil violence in different cities (Bhatta 2004) are the security concerns not only for India but also for the whole region. Moreover, the recent rise of Hinduism is also a security threat to India's stability (Thapa 2016).

Further, the security complexity between India and Pakistan has reached in another dimension since Balakot airstrikes on 26 February 2019 by Indian Air Force. The significance of this strike is that it marks the end of the policy of strategic restraint by India since 1998, when both countries were equipped with nuclear weapons (The Economic Times 2019). India took a policy decision during Kargil that the Indian armed forces would not cross the Line of Control (LoC), and it was meticulously observed. But in the surgical strikes, India took the step of crossing the LoC in a shallow attack under the territory of Pakistan's governance. However, the message is loud and clear that India will be in attacking position if Pakistan continuously supports Islamic Militia in Kashmir. Besides this Government of India revoked the special constitution status of Kashmir on 5 August 2020, which has created severe agitation and protest in that conflicted area. India deployed hundred's of thousand security forces and lock-down the Kashmir to control over the situation. Therefore, Imran Khan, Prime Minister, Pakistan warned a nuclear war over Kashmir in a speech done by him in UN General Assembly on 27 September 2019 and argued the UN and international community to intervene the extreme outbreak of hostilities between the two countries which is significant not only for South Asia also for the world peace (Aljazeera 2019). Therefore recent incidence and political movement between Delhi and Islamabad have escalated the security complexity in the region.



Furthermore, Nepal had been suffered a decade's protracted internal conflict (1996-2006) that finally abolished the monarch system of the country. Though now Nepal is running by democracy; however, poor governance, political instability, poverty and religious fragmentations are the primary security challenges for the country's integrity. On the other hand, Sri Lanka suffered from a long, devastating civil war (1983-2009) between minority Tamil and majority Singhalese ethnicity. Though the open conflict has ended due to military victory, yet the political problem remains constant (Paul 2010). The Maldives has been facing political unrest since after the Gayoom regime (1978-2008), as the continuous political instability destroying the economy, especially the tourism sector. Bhutan is running with the monarch system of government and recently facing considerable challenges due to environmental degradation.

At last, Afghanistan, the new member of this region, now the centre of world attention for 'war on terror'. However, the state has been suffering a prolonged conflict since 1979, just after Soviet aggression during the cold war (1979-1989). Then the emergence of Taliban and other mujahidin groups brought the country under internal fighting among the groups for power (1990-2001) with the influence of external powers like the USA, Pakistan, Iran and Russian. Finally, the devastating situation has arisen after 9/11, when the war on terror has begun. The continuous-instability and substantial international presence in Afghanistan have opened a different dimension in South Asian Security Complex (Wagner 2018).

IV. THE SOUTH ASIAN SECURITY COMPLEX IN INTER-REGIONAL LEVEL: INDIAN MATERIAL SUPREMACY AND SINO-INDIA-PAKISTAN TRIANGLE RELATION

In this portion, the essay demonstrates how South Asia RSC inter-relates over the region into the global level. South Asia always maintained a stable relationship with Gulf region and Muslim world. Though Bangladesh and Pakistan have a good affiliation with Gulf region, especially Saudi-Arabia, India also maintaining communication with the Muslim world. Additionally, India supports the right of Palestine movement. However, the regional dynamics of South Asia with East Asia is complicated due to the rise of China as a great power (Bhattacharya 2005). Sino-Pakistan-India triangle relations always have complexity with multi-affected regional and global magnitudes. Besides this post 9/11, US-led international involvement in Afghanistan updated the South Asia RSC in Global order (Buzan 2011).

However, within the region, India became the overwhelmingly dominant actor regarding power, military strength, GDP and population (Figure-3). During cold-war RSC in South Asia was bi-polar, that was India-Pakistan rivalry and competition. But after the cold war and 9/11, RSC in this region has changed dramatically, India emerged as a regional power and as well as seeking global power. Moreover, India claims her as the security provider over the region, and even India is claiming permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) (Mukherjee 2014). According to Buzan and Wæver "South Asian RSC was slowly moving towards an internal transformation from bipolarity to unipolarity as India got stronger and Pakistan weaker and that the rise of China was creating a centre of gravity that was slowly drawing South Asia into closer security interaction with the East Asian RSC. As a rule, change in the South Asian RSC was incremental and slow, rather than sudden and dramatic (Buzan 2011: 2-3)." Stewart-Ingersoll and Frazier (2010: 54–56) also showed "in-spite-of Pakistan's nuclear power; South Asia is now unipolar due to India's material supremacy. But India is not hegemonic in this region, now India seeks more status over the region as inter-regional power".

Figure 3: Traditional security architecture in South Asia and Indian supremacy

Country	Total armed forces	Military Expenditure (% of GDP)	Military Expenditure (million)(Current LCU ³)	Total GDP (2016) US\$	Total population (2016) (million)
Afghanistan	319400	0.9	11,791.50	19.469 billion	34.65
Bangladesh	220950	1.4	249,842.50	221.415 billion	162.95
Bhutan	-	-		2.059 billion	0.797
India	2,798,800	2.5	3,757,745.00	2.264 trillion	1324.171
Maldives	-	-		4.224 billion	0.417
Nepal	158,600	1.5	34,291.45	21.123 billion	28.928
Pakistan	935,800	3.6	1,054,558.50	278.91 billion	193.203
Sri Lanka	265,200	2.5	289,160.00	81.322 billion	21.203

The regional traditional security architecture in South Asia 2016 (World Bank 2018)

Nevertheless, Pakistan and China have a close relationship since 1947. Simultaneously Pakistan has maintained a good relationship with the USA, though the nature of relation shows ups and downs at different times. Islamabad has a military alliance with Beijing since 1966 and also has been strengthening during the last two decades; especially Beijing has supported the nuclear programme in Pakistan. In contrast Islamabad–Washington relations has been fluctuating in recent times due to the US accusation of Pakistan's connection with some terrorist/extremist groups, so Washington pessimistically influences the collaboration between Pakistan and China through more engagement with India (Wagner 2018). Besides, China is also active in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar (Paul 2010), and building special military and business agreements with these countries. However, China is seen by many South Asian small countries as the counterweight to Indian dominance in the regional level. Therefore, India is worried about huge Chinese involvement in South Asia that may hamper the regional interest and supremacy of India in South Asia (Jetly 2012). Nevertheless, both India and Pakistan are more interested in ASEAN than SAARC, and both are the observers of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) (Bailes et al. 2007).

³ LCU- Local currency unit, which means GDP at purchaser's prices, is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products.

On the other hand, since 1962, after the hostility with China, India moved slowly to normalise the relation, and after the cold war, the reciprocal link between India and China became relatively better. As a regional power, India is racing with China to be a part of the great power, but not so booming, because of inter-regional complexity and interest. However, in recent years India and China have become relatively close in-terms of business and trade, and presently China is India's largest trading partner as their bilateral trade is about \$71.5 billion. But, the balance of trade is considerably skewed in favour of China (The Economic Times 2017). Despite this Sino-India relation still competitive and mistrust and worry are prevailing in regards to inter-regional influence, influence over the Indian Ocean and international status. Additionally, Tibet issue, Arunachal factor and border dispute are the underlying volatility of China-India relations. In addition, China was severely reacted against India when the religious leader of Tibet Dalai Lama's⁴ visited Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and addressed 'Arunachal being part of India' (The Diplomat 2017). Furthermore, India considers China as their security threat, but China doesn't feel India like this, because due to position, power and influence China is in the driving seat in Asian security dynamics. As well China is against India as a Security Council's permanent member, and also China has tried to limiting India within the region (Jetly 2012). To balance this relationship, India has been trying to be close to the USA since the 2000s (Pant 2009). After 9/11, due to the US active presence in Afghanistan, USA and India are becoming closer than any other previous time. Therefore, for the presence of USA, other global actors and interaction of China in this region the South Asian RSC have formed the super-complex in nature and outline a linkage in global order (Buzan 2011).

V. SOUTH ASIAN SECURITY COMPLEXITY IN GLOBAL LEVEL AND POST 9/11, US POLICY IN SOUTH ASIA

The three major factors that contribute to the strategic affiliation between India and Pakistan are nuclear weapons, terrorism, and the concerns of the international forum – specifically the United States. The global community, and in particular the United States, are concerned about India-Pakistan interactions. This concern is the third significant issue in the anticipation relationship (Sasikumar 2019). The 9/11 catastrophe had a substantial impact on the South Asian Security dynamics concerning domestic, regional and global level. On this occasion, global super-power, the USA is playing new 'great game' in Afghanistan that brought South Asia into Central Attention. The complex nature of Afghan affairs significantly affected the internal power dynamics in Pakistan, though Pakistan upgraded its status with the USA to be a 'major non-NATO'⁵ ally' (Berlin 2006). Moreover, for the first time, US central policy has focused on South Asia and showed a willingness to a better strategic relationship with the major power of this region, especially with China, India and Pakistan. Besides, the USA also became attentive to other smaller countries in this region. Therefore, US called upon to stop the brutal civil war in Sri Lanka; request Bangladesh to resist the Islamic extremist and played an underlying role in ending Nepal conflict for turning-over to democracy (Shaikh 2006). However, the newly emerged geopolitical and geo-strategic concern is provoking Russia and China to engage in this volatile area. In case of China, its involvement in Afghanistan leads to commercial interest and geopolitical influence in South Asia and Central Asia. On the other hand, under Putin, Russia attempted towards Afghanistan for maximising geopolitical influence in the ex-soviet region in Central Asia (Garhwal 2018, Kim and Indeo 2013). As a result, power alignments are continuously transforming in this region; as the USA, China and Russia are underlying competing among themselves for their influence and interest.

Furthermore, as an emerging power, India desires to engage in the global environment from regional agenda and interest. Consequently, India has a strategic interest to involve with Afghan affairs and India's post 9/11 relationship with the USA allowed India to balance power with China and to down Pakistan. New-Delhi has maintained close ties with Kabul in regards to military cooperation, trade and security; this cooperation strategically planned to resist Pakistan and expand its relation to Central Asia (Hanif 2010). So Indo-US economic and military collaboration would transform a different inter-regional complexity with China and Pakistan. Moreover, India is expanding its interest in the Indian Ocean, growing a strategic relationship with Japan, Indonesia and Australia. However, Japan has vested interest for regional power balance with China through cooperation with India. On the other hand, China is disappointed and concerned about India's active participation over the region, especially with Japan. In this case, US policy is to support India for limiting Chinese influence over Asia (Jetly 2012). So, the essay argues China and USA are remaining the critical external players who have a significant influence in South Asian security dynamics. However, China is playing in both-sides at the inter-regional level as well as global scale due to its position as a great power. Therefore US-China interaction is an important factor for south Asian security dynamics. Besides, India's aspiration to become

⁴ Dalai Lama is the religious name of Tibet, the 14 Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso fled India during Tibet uprising 1959, awarded Noble Peace Prize in 1989 and living as refugee in India.

⁵ NATO- North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

a part of global power provokes India- to expand relations with East Asia and Central Asia; to have influence over the Indian Ocean and to compete with China which has renovated RSC with global connectivity. As a result, the super-power USA, great power China and other global actor's interaction in South Asia extended its RSC into the global scale.

VI. NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY (NTS) THREATS IN SOUTH ASIA

The Copenhagen School has developed a multi-sectoral approach to security' that differ from traditional security studies, which mentioned "five general categories of security: military, environmental, economic, societal and political security. The concept is therefore maintained as well as extended beyond military security to four other categories" (Emmers 2010: 168-170). In case of South Asian security complexity, non-traditional security (NTS) is a growing awareness and has an increasing sense of significance which has spillover interaction with traditional security areas. In recent days South Asia is facing lots of NTS; environment and climate change, food and water scarcity, poverty, political instability, human and drug trafficking and social inequality, are the burning concerns in this region, and sometimes these issues are over-dominant than traditional security for regional stability (Figure-4) (Karim 2013).

Environmental degradation and Climate change have a catastrophic threat in South Asia. According to IPCC,⁶ 'climate change has occurred the widespread damage of human life, property, and livelihood from riverine, coastal, and urban flooding; heat stress; drought; water and food crisis and malnutrition in this region' (IPCC 2018, Sen et al. 2017). About 1200 people have died, and 40 million people have affected in Bangladesh, Nepal and India during 2017 flood that indicates the severity of climate change (The Guardian 2017). Moreover, rapid urbanisation, unplanned industrialisation, deforestation and overpopulation are also the remarkable risk factors for human security in this region. Besides the environmental issues like sharing river water: Bangladesh-India-Nepal, Bangladesh-India, Pakistan-India, Nepal-India are also a significant security concern for this region. On the other hand, sea-level rise is the extreme threat to Bangladesh, Maldives and coastal part of India and Pakistan (IPCC 2018, UNCC 2014).

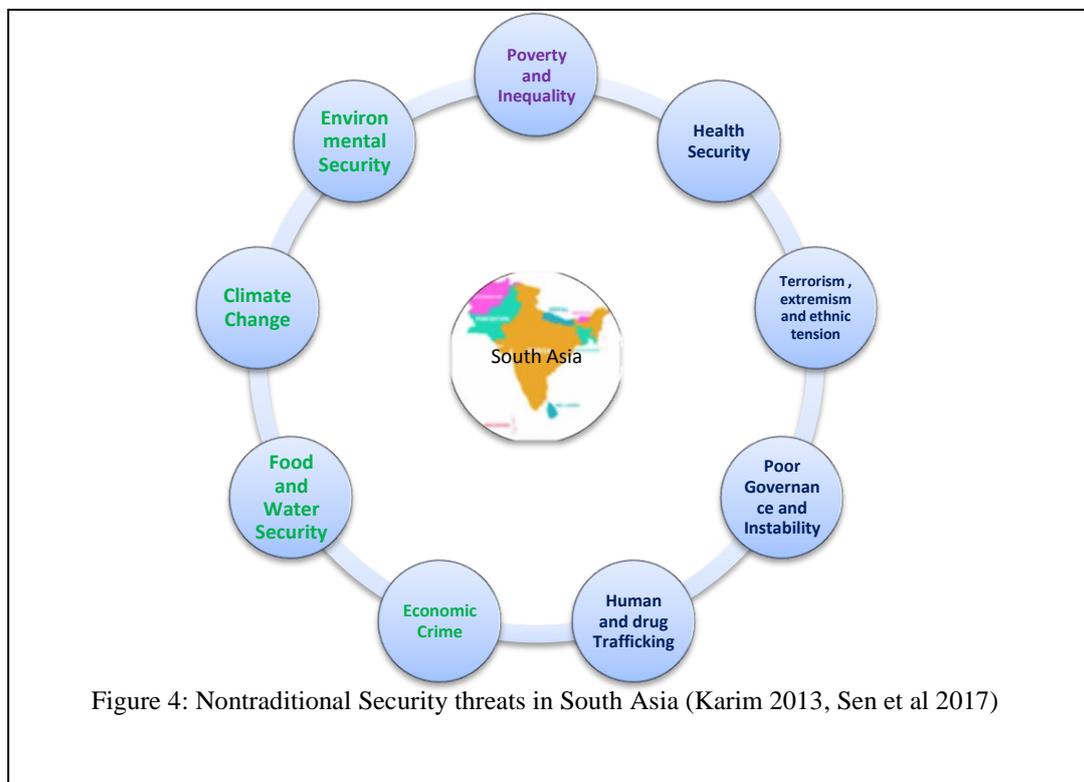


Figure 4: Nontraditional Security threats in South Asia (Karim 2013, Sen et al 2017)

Furthermore, still, poverty is one of the predominant issues in South Asia. About 260 million people are living under the poverty line, which is highly alarming for human security, especially in India (21.2 percent

⁶ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a scientific and intergovernmental body under the auspices of the United Nations founded on 1988 which working on global Climate change, impact and consequence

poverty) and Bangladesh (18.5 percent poverty) (World Bank 2018). Additionally, due to lack of good governance, social discrimination (gender inequality and cast discrimination) and inequalities have been increasing in this region which is substantial threats to the future. Health security also an essential concern for South Asia, especially HIV and AIDS, are spreading in India alarmingly which a security burden in this region (UNICEF-India 2018). Besides this, South Asia is so vulnerable to human trafficking, illegal drug, violence against women, and corruption which are the significant threats to human security in this region (UNODC 2013). However, South Asia is more concern with traditional security, but we see non-traditional security threats are so significant for the sustainability of this region. To sincerely address this non-traditional security, South Asia should become a high priority to intra-regional cooperation. Nevertheless, South Asia regional cooperation is comparatively weaker than Africa, Latin America or East Asia (Paul 2010). So South Asian should genuinely address the NTS threat in regional level and global collaboration also essential to handle this threat.

VII. CONCLUSION

The research demonstrates an overview of the various dimensions of security complexity in South Asia. Exploring the subject of South Asian security this essay finds that the RSC in South Asia is characterised by the dynamic interplay of various security, economic and political factors which are reinforcing each other. Despite having common regional history, cultural heritage and colonial legacy, the RSC of this region remain to the complex nature of territorial and non-territorial disputes with terrorist, religious fundamentalist and ethnic separatist movement. Although, the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has been emerged as a means of regionalism in South Asia, due to the bilateral dispute between India and Pakistan and lack of sufficient multilateral cooperation mechanisms SAARC has shown to be as a dysfunctional organisation. However, during the cold war, India and Pakistan were the leading players in South Asia. But after the cold war and especially for the 9/11 catastrophe the RSC in South Asia has dramatically changed and to some extent moved to unipolarity, since India is the dominant actor in this region due to material supremacy. However, the rising of China has a significant influence over the region, especially Chinese interaction with Pakistan, a conservative policy with India and cooperation with Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka have formed an inter-regional security complexity. Furthermore, the USA and China are the leading external key players in this region. After 9/11, US and India strategically tied-up for balancing the influence of China in this region. With an ambition to be a part of the great power, India is expanding its strategic connection with East Asia and spreading its interest over the Indian Ocean as a security provider. On the other hand, China is trying to limit India at the regional level. Besides this, under Putin, Russia has attempted to regain its weight in this region. So, for the involvement of super-power and great powers in South Asia, RSC of this region has formed a linkage with inter-region to the global level. Nevertheless, Non-traditional security threats in South Asia have an increasing sense of significance which has spillover interaction with traditional security areas. Climate Change, poverty, human and drug trafficking, terrorism and poor governance are enormous challenges for South Asia's security and stability. Still, South Asia is not sincerely addressing these non-traditional security burdens. Therefore, South Asia needs real attention to combat these unconventional security threats that they never had before.

Finally, regional and global politics, security dynamics and national security of South Asia are profoundly interlinked and highly complex. All these complexities will have a reflective impact on regional security. To ensure the security, stability and development of South Asia, effective regional security architecture is critically essential; which should be capable of dealing with traditional state security to non-traditional security as well as human security for a sustainable South Asia.

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