

International Reactions to a Pakistan-India War Victory: A Shift in Global Alliances

Ubaid Yousaf

Unirazak University, International Relations, Malaysia

Amir Iqbal

National Defense University, International Relations, Islamabad

ArzO Sama

Fatima Jinnah Women University, Faculty of Education, Rawalpindi

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Abstract

The geopolitical landscape of South Asia changed as the May 2025 India and Pakistan conflict brought the geopolitical balance to a new stage and changed the traditional South Asian power relations. The four-day military buildup triggered by the Pahalgam incident challenged the conventional belief of Indian stature of escalation superiority and revealed weak links in the traditional Indian military strengths. The decisive battle against the Indians by Pakistan through high-level Chinese based technology and combined cyber-kinetic action was a rattle against the Strategic Myth of the Indian conventional supremacy. This paper examines how the international community responded to the success of Pakistan and how the world realigned its relationships and policies. In particular, it examines the effect on the U.S. Indo-Pacific policy, legitimization of Chinese military technology, and the emergence of a multi-polar security axis, specifically, the Pakistan-China-Turkey axis. The paper, further, analyzes the diplomatic re-hyphenation of India and Pakistan in the world discourse and the consequences of the same to the stability of the region. Through the Structural Realist theory, the study offers a conceptual framework of the way change in military might shape the international relations and global security structure. The results indicate that unipolarity is being replaced with multipolarity regional order, and Pakistan is now becoming a key strategic actor. Such a change highlights the necessity of new diplomacy and arms regimes to cope with the South Asian stability under the influence of technological and military development.

Keywords: South Asian Geopolitics, India-Pakistan Conflict, May 2025 Escalation, Conventional Warfare, Chinese Military Technology, Global Alliances, Multi-Polar Security Axis.

Introduction

Study Background: The Pivoting Paradigm of the Indo-Pakistani Rivalry in the Mid-2020s

The geopolitical situation in South Asia in the middle of 2020s has radically changed, shifting the

balance of power in the region fundamentally. This change is the termination of what has been historically referred to as the Strategic Freeze which is a period of relative stability after the 2019 Balakot crisis. India and Pakistan, the nuclear-armed states, did not engage in conventional provocations and feared that the situation was going to deteriorate into a full-scale war during this period. The unstable standoff that was the strategic environment took almost five years, and both parties were keen not to do anything that would lead to uncontrollable escalation (Institute of Strategic Studies, Research and Analysis [ISSRA], 2025). The nuclear deterrent effect predominantly featured in this era where even minor skirmishes were handled with utmost care so as to prevent the escalation of the threshold in the nuclear war.

But this period of restraint was rudely terminated during 2024 and 2025, with the region passing through a transition to what has been described as an Intelligentized Warfare. This new paradigm is a great break to the past whereby conflicts were only mostly restricted to traditional border battles or the imminent danger of a nuclear war. Technological developments have led to the development of Intelligentized Warfare which changed the character of conflict in South Asia. The artificial intelligence (AI), long-range precision standoff weapons, and combined cyber-kinetic activities have started substituting conventional military capabilities such as nuclear weapons and aircraft as the key tools of national power (ISSRA, 2025). This is not just a change of direction in the global landscape but also a battle field that is no longer restrained within space and time but has been extended into an active, digital and high-tech one. The rate of recognition and precision of strikes are determining factors in the winner in this new environment (ISSRA, 2025).

This shift to this new stage of war led to the war of May 2025 that was catalyzed by the Pahalgam incident. The war was a landmark in the history of South Asian geopolitics in that it showed that the first time a full-blown conventional war could be fought without turning into a nuclear battle. The growth of the war was planned, and it was possible to change a lot in terms of territorial and strategic aspects without reaching the nuclear threshold, and it was something that was impossible in the South Asian reality before. This change in the character of warfare was also the conclusion of the de-escalation activities that were dominated by the West. Over the decades, the United States and its comrades had been instrumental in resolving the situations in the region and stopping the aggravation of the situation. Nevertheless, the conflict in May 2025 demonstrated a shift of the dynamics on the regional scale. According to the Humanities Journal (2025), the geopolitical environment in South Asia is becoming more and more local and regionalization of interests whereby the regional powers are more significant in the setting of terms of engagement and settlement.

The increased significance of local actors and their strategic partners in conflict resolution can be observed in this change in the regional security architecture. The role of the Western powers, especially the United States, in the formulation of the result of regional crises is declining, which is replaced by the participation of South Asian countries and their direct neighbors in the achievement of their interests. The case of the Pahalgam conflict illustrates such evolvement because it was solved without any great intervention on the part of the West, which can be seen as an indicator of the shift towards a more multipolar security system in the region. This is a radical change in the geopolitical dynamics of South Asia, and it is likely to change the future of the region in the coming years.

Problem Statement: The Strategic Myth of Indian Conventional Dominance after the May 2025 Escalation

The Indo-Pacific security structure of the world has been constructed over a few decades on a basic premise that India is conventionally superior and always at the forefront of escalation against Pakistan. International observers, and Western strategic thinkers, saw India as an ever-growing regional hegemony, which could use its huge defense expenditure and its Western technological purchases to sustain an unchallenged overmatch over its neighbor. This belief was not just a local issue, but it

formed the basis of the U.S. Indo-Pacific policy where the U.S. banked on India as the main democratic balancing factor to the increasing Chinese power. In this story, Pakistan had been frequently set aside into a role of strategic disobeying--it could raise a commotion but could in the long run not endure a conventional campaign of attrition by a modernized Indian army.

But the four day war in May 2025 with the battle of operation Sindoor on one side against the operation Bunyaan-un-Marsoos by Pakistan on the other was a shocking and shocking challenge to this long held narrative. The war was a high stakes laboratory experiment that experimented with the Strategic Myth of Indian conventional superiority and the outcomes shocked the defense community across the globe. The situation on the ground and on the air, despite the massive Indian defense modernization efforts and acquisitions of the latest Western models, dictated otherwise despite the multi-billion dollar spending. The destruction of high-technology Indian air assets, including French-manufactured Rafale aircraft and Russian-manufactured Su-30MKI by the Pakistani forces using technology of Chinese origin such as the J-10C fighter and the PL-15 long-range air-to-air missiles raised a serious gap between perceived capability and reality.

Such a breakdown to the Rafale factor, as well as the sudden fragility of the frontline interceptors of the Indian Air Force, exposed gross structural and systemic flaws in the Indian tactical command system and its air defence posture. Indian military had issues with sensor-to-shooter integration, and they were unable to counter the electronic warfare and the so-called intelligentised capabilities of the Pakistani side as reported by the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC Report, 2025) and Defence Security Asia (2025). The psychological effect of such losses may not be overestimated; the feeling of invincibility that India was trying to promote has been severely damaged. As a result, the mythical Strategy of the certain Indian triumph in a regular battle has been shattered. This poses an acute academic and strategic issue: whether the balance of power in the region has been as it was assumed, the whole model of the Indo-Pacific security has to be considered. It has cast a lot of doubt on the credibility of the current security partnerships, the suitability of Western military equipment to the South Asian arena and the future of the partnership between India and the US. The regional power balance has to be rethought immediately since the May 2025 incident has demonstrated that technological equality, in addition to a better tactical level, can counter an opponent of a numerical and financial superiority.

Implications of a New Regional Order

The failure of the old strategic agreement requires a complete re-examination of the international diplomatic and strategic responses to the performance of the military in Pakistan. The study should concern the impact that this change has on the bargaining power of Pakistan in the international community including the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Once the influential nature of one of the powers in the region is undermined, it loses some of its power to dictate terms via coercive diplomacy, and the playing field in any diplomatic negotiations becomes more even. Moreover, the military equipment of the Chinese army in this war is a turning point in the arms market of the world. Assuming that Beijing can manage to counter the leading-edge Western platforms, there will be a pronounced change in the South Asian market of military hardware, and possibly the entire market, to the Chinese vendors. The validation of the idea of Concept Work by Beijing makes China not only a provider, but the prime writer of a new security architecture in South Asia.

Lastly, world trade routes security, namely, of the Arabian Sea and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), should be reconsidered in terms of this new reality of power. A Pakistan that can prove its capabilities to protect its territory and airspace using hi-tech precision is a Pakistan that would be in a better position to protect the energy and trade arteries that go through its dominance. The world now has to contend with a South Asia in which the traditional hierarchies have been turned upside down and a multi-polar axis of security that includes Pakistan, China and Turkey has

commenced to exercise its power over the old order, which is led by the West. The study will address the current gap in knowledge about this transition and offer a critical examination of an area that is going through a historic power transition.

Objectives of the Research

The main aim of the present research is the analysis of international diplomatic and strategic reactions to a decisive military victory of the Pakistani side. In particular, the study will seek to:

1. To assess whether there is a change in the global diplomatic discourse and whether the re-hyphenation of India and Pakistan has occurred.
2. To evaluate the foreign validity and market control of Chinese military technology.

To investigate the development of a tripolar security axis (Pakistan-China-Turkey).**1.4.**

Research Questions

1. To examine the repositioning of the U.S. Indo-Pacific policy and the rebalancing of more transactional diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan.
2. The line of research is to test the validation of the China-Pakistan strategic axis and the consequent impact of the Chinese military technology on the South Asian security architecture.
3. To analyze how eroded Indian escalation power is affecting the Pakistan international bargaining power and security of the trade routes in the region (CPEC).

Significance of the Study: Providing a Framework for Understanding South Asian Stability in a Multi-Polar World

The research is important because it is the first scholarly framework aimed at examining South Asian security in the event that the myth of conventional dominance is put to the test in 2025. Using the Structural Realist theory, the study provides a knowledge base on how the rebalancing of alliances within the state system occurs when a regional “bulwark (India) suffers a tactical defeat (ISSRA, 2025). It is a critical tool to world policy makers as it offers them a roadmap on how to navigate the process of blockifying South Asia in which the US-Israel-India nexus is becoming more even with a renewed partnership between Pakistan and China and Russia.

Literature Review

South Asian Deterrence in History: Evolution (1947-1998)

The South Asian strategic environment has been characterized by binary rivalry that has been going through various distinct periods of doctrines. In the period between the 1947 partition of the British Raj and early 1970s, deterrence was more of a traditional affair. This First Epoch of deterrence was dependent on the physical concentration of forces, physical obstacles, and the old way of Clausewitzian war logic, which was based on attrition. The Islamabad and New Delhi military planners interpreted the defense of the sovereignty in the terms of the fixed infantry lines and the armored advances. During the conflict in 1948 and 1965, the perceived cost was to break through the status quo of the enemy army in a war of conquest.

But the disastrous events of the war in 1971 that resulted in the secession of East Pakistan significantly demolished the Pakistani establishment belief system of conventional parity. This was weakened by the fact that India had conducted a nuclear test in 1974 named the Smiling Buddha. These occurrences became the major impetus behind the nuclear program in Pakistan where the balance of power in the region becomes a nuclear rivalry as opposed to a conventional one. Already in 1998 when tit-for-tat nuclear tests were taking place, the region was in the era of Stability-Instability Paradox. According to Humanities Journal (2025), this paradox implies that the existence of nuclear weapons renders total

war inconceivable, but at the same time encourages conventional conflicts at lower levels since both sides (nuclear-armed) are under the assumption that the other will not risk annihilation by the use of nuclear weapons over minor strategic objectives.

The 2025 Paradigm and the Shift to Full Spectrum Deterrence (FSD)

By the middle of the 2020s, the Minimum Credible Deterrence of the early 2000s had become ineffective in dealing with the changing Indian military posture. In reaction to New Delhi's doctrine of Cold Start, which saw fast, shallow attacks into Pakistan land, with a view to attaining a political end-state, before an international intervention could be effected, Pakistan formalised its Full Spectrum Deterrence (FSD) doctrine. As compared to earlier versions, FSD is set to deter aggression at the three levels, namely, strategic, operational, and tactical.

FSD is no longer confined to the menace of a large-scale retaliation as it is maneuvered as described by the Institute of Strategic Studies, Research and Analysis (ISSRA, 2025). It has been supplemented by Tactical Nuclear Weapons (TNWs), including the Nasr missile system, which is specifically intended to seal the conventional gap of the mechanized units of India, which tried to leverage the gap. In 2025, this deterrence is fully automated by introducing artificial intelligence and space-based surveillance. This is such that any offensive attack can be addressed with a disproportionate but decisive response on equal footing, whether it be on the snow-white mountains of the Himalayas or cyberspace of the electromagnetic spectrum.

The Structural Reality of South Asian Anarchy and neorealism

In order to examine how the international community would react to a Pakistani win it is necessary to examine it through the prism of Structural Realism (Neorealism) as introduced by Kenneth Waltz. According to neorealism, the international system is anarchic, that is, it does not have a central governing authority, that is why the states are compelled to operate as rational and self-interested entities, the major aim of which is survival. Here, power is the sole currency of security in this self-help system.

The attempts by India at regional hegemony, symbolized by its Look East policy, and their Indo-Pacific policy is seen by Neorealists not as an attempt to seek prestige, but as an organizational action of structural dominance of its immediate environment. In the case of Pakistan, this poses a Security Dilemma in which the benefits of India are seen as the existential threats to Pakistan. In turn, the balancing move by Pakistan to the side of China and its emphasis on high-tech military qualitative parity are logical. The formation of a so-called multi-polar security axis, the ResearchGate (2025) claims, is the unavoidable outcome of an anarchic pressure compelling smaller states to balance against an aspiring regional hegemon to guarantee their further existence.

The Conflict of May 2025: Systemic Recalibration Case Study

The four-day conflict at May 2025 of famous clash of India and Pakistan initiated operation called Sindoor and Pakistan counterattack operation called Bunyaan-un-Marsoos gives an unexampled case study in Balance of Power theory. According to neorealism, a systemic recalibration takes place once a dominating power (India) is put into check by a theoretically weaker power (Pakistan). The international community who had majorly gambled on Indian conventional dominance was compelled to face the reality that the one who claims to be the hegemon was no longer able to impose its will upon its people with force.

This defeat destroyed what scholars termed the Strategic Myth of Indian overmatch. According to the Perspective (2025) world powers such as the United States and Russia are currently being forced to reconsider their strategies in Eurasia and Indo-Pacific. The understanding that Pakistan can manage to enjoy a power balance with technological integration is that the India-centered strategy of the west

is now strategically risky. The world reaction to the triumph of 2025 is not therefore based on a moral alignment but the pragmatic necessity to acknowledge a new balance in South Asia.

Comparison of Crisis Management: 1999 (Kargil) vs. 2019 (Balakot)

The international intervention has undergone a historical comparison with the conclusion that the Global Order has changed to a multipolar rather than a unipolar one. The United States was left with unquestioned unipolar power in 1999 when it used this power during the Kargil war to pressurize Islamabad into a withdrawal as a way of preserving the status quo in the region. Western assistance to India at that time was associated with its new economic possibilities and the urge to avoid any nuclear disaster in a part of the world, which the West was yet to comprehend comprehensively (Akhtar, 2025).

As the case in Balakot, 2019, the world had entered a transitional phase. As much as the U.S still remained a primary mediator, it could no longer have an absolute influence. The response was aimed at the so-called crisis containment basically an attempt to extinguish the fire before it gets out of control. Even then, the international response remained heavily tinting with the belief that India was the possessor of the escalation ladder and that Pakistan had been no more than a responding agent. These historical precedents preconditioned the shock of 2025 when the old principles of the international mediators were outdated by an effective performance of the Pakistani military forces.

The Intelligence of the War and Cyber-Kinetic Synergy

The biggest lesson out of the 2024-2025 military literature is the shift towards the Intelligitized Warfare as opposed to conventional. The superior numbers were not a source of victory in the May 2025 conflict, but the electromagnetic spectrum. This paradigm encompasses the Artificial Intelligence, cyber-attacks and kinetic strikes in a combination of one, continuous, operation.

A cybersoap Synergy defined the success of Pakistan to a great extent. As Indian command and control (C2) centers were being debilitated by advanced cyber-infiltrations, Pakistani precision drones and long range standoff operations were hitting high value targets. This Information Dominance enabled a lesser numerically superior force to blind a bigger one. The application of the AI-led swarming tactics of Pakistani UAVs rendered conventional and costly air defense virtually ineffective (Carnegie Endowment 2025). This change signifies a transition of brute force to the form of algorithmic warfare, in which the pace of information processing is as crucial as the pace of a missile.

Chinese Hardware validation and Shifting to the Global Arms Market

The key factor of the 2025 triumph was the battle field performance of the Chinese-origin military equipment, the J-10C fighter, and the HQ-9 air defense system. Their success in countering western military analysis has taken decades, with military observers casting the Chinese technological capability in the West as questionable when it was matched to western or Russian gold standard platforms such as the Rafale or the Su-30MKI. The conflict of May 2025 was a great way to resolve this debate.

It was a proof of concept to the world when the top-tier Indian assets were reportedly downed by Pakistani forces using the Chinese technology. The USCC (2025) report points out that the affordability of these platforms has caused a paradigm shift in the arms market around the world. When a J-10C, equally armed with advanced electronic warfare packages, is capable of countering a costlier western competitor, Western ability to pay becomes a much bigger concern. This has established Beijing to the status of not only a provider of hardware, but as the main architect of a new South Asian security structure, to replace the Western-dominated outdated structures.

CPEC and Global Trade Routes Strategic Implication

The military implication of May 2025 is much wider than the immediate battlefield itself, and it will

mark a fundamental change in the security dynamics on the global trade. Most conspicuously, the win has radically changed the risk analysis of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the risky maritime routes of the Arabian Sea. International investors and strategic analysts raised serious questions over the long-term sustainability of CPEC as Pakistan was seen as conventionally vulnerable, as being a strategic risk to the multi-billion-dollar infrastructure program. But because of its ability to defend sovereign air and maritime space against a regionally stronger state by numerically the greater power, Pakistan has demonstrated a decisive boost to the bankability and perceived safety of this trade route.

The North Arabian Sea rule by the Indian Navy was historically considered to be a so-called chokehold that could be triggered in case of a crisis to blockade Pakistani ports and cut off Chinese energy supplies. The Indian Indian dominance in escalation was based on this maritime weakness. The 2025 conflict however demonstrated that the integration of high-tech anti-ship cruise missiles (ASCMs) and artificial intelligence (AI) and drone-based maritime surveillance has formed a sophisticated Area-Denial (A2/AD) Zone. It is a successful protection cover in the defence of Gwadar Port and littoral approaches that makes the old naval blockade approaches outdated.

This change in the regional security system has strengthened the bargaining position of Pakistan to a large extent in powerful international forums like the United Nations (UN) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). This can be seen as a new form of diplomatic leverage by Islamabad because of having left a position of a vulnerable state that needs protection to a new status of a security guarantor who is in a position to protect one of the most critical energy corridors in the whole world. The global community has now acknowledged that the stability of the global energy movements across the Arabian Sea is becoming more linked to the modernized defensive capacities of Pakistan. This in turn, makes the 2025 win a case in which the CPEC land and sea routes would cease to remain mere economic fantasies, but strategically anchored facts of the new South Asian order.

Conclusion: Permanent rewriting of the South Asian Architecture

The shift in the era of 1947, the struggle, to the era of 2025, the victory whose implementation was directed by intelligence, is the conclusive epochal shift in geopolitics of the entire world. Western Indo-Pacific strategies have long been based on the myth of strategic Indian conventional dominance, with New Delhi as the future hegemon of the region, and one of the main balances to counter-Chinese. This perceived superiority determined diplomatic measures and military expenditures on all the continents of the world. The May 2025 events have however demolished this age-old belief and demonstrated that the numerical strength and huge defense budgets are no longer sufficient to win the war in the era of algorithmic warfare.

This failed myth has created a vacuum that has been filled by another reality of Full Spectrum parity. This is not just a bilateral balancing performance but a structural repositioning pegged up with a powerful, multi-polar axis comprising of Pakistan, China and Turkey. This triple security has exhibited a greater capacity to combine high-technology equipment, including the J-10C and other special electronic warfare packages, with some of the most advanced tactical theories that are used to counter the conventional air and ground advantages.

The 2025 win is a systemic correction that is necessary according to the Neorealism paradigm. The international system that is inherently equilibrium-seeking is being coerced to abandon the outdated approach to unipolar crisis management of Western powers formulating the terms of de-escalation and move toward a more realistic form of multipolar crisis acceptance. The global players should now enter into a deal with Pakistan neither as a back player but as a major power in terms of military capabilities and with a lot of bargaining power in other international bodies such as the UN and SCO. This triumph of planning, technology and strategic patient in the end, was the triumph of the brutes of numbers. Through its effective efforts to thwart high-intensity threats to the trade routes and CPEC

corridor, Pakistan has rewritten the regional order. This change is an indication of the new era of South Asian geopolitics in which the equilibrium of power will be determined by the level of technological advancement and the strength of autonomous strategic connections.

Research Methodology

Research Design: Qualitative Research based on Scenario Planning and Counterfactual Analysis

The research design employed in the study is the Qualitative Research Design that focuses on applying Scenario Planning and Counterfactual Analysis in a synergistic manner. Scenario planning is a foresight technique, shifting the present into the future to investigate several possible scenarios- that is, the Pakistani triumph of May 2025. This strategy enables one to establish internally consistent accounts that relate strategic drivers to the geopolitical consequences. In addition to this, counterfactual analysis, the What if? method is used to analyze the way in which certain changes made in certain past events or decisions would have changed the way later international reaction took place. These future counterfactuals help the research to avoid cognitive bias and to find new hypotheses to build theories in South Asian security research.

Data Collection Sources

The research design is based on a wide variety of primary and secondary data to achieve the cross-case validity and academic rigor.

Those sources are considered primary because they focus on official governmental white papers of the United States, China, Pakistan, and India, as well as the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. The study also uses 2025 military press conferences of the ISPR and MoD of India in order to record real-time diplomatic and strategic communication.

Secondary Sources: The overall analysis of the peer-reviewed journals (2024-2025) and reports prepared by think tanks of such reputable organizations as the Institute of Strategic Studies, Research and Analysis (ISSRA), the Carnegie Endowment of International Peace, and the Belfer Center.

Analytical Procedure: Content Analysis and Comparative Case Study

Content Analysis is used in the research to suitably analyze meanings, contexts, and intentions of diplomatic rhetoric. This is done through the coding of the frequency and presence of certain themes including, but not limited to, strategic stability or regional hegemony to bring an international variation of communication trends.

At the same time, the **Comparative Case Study** approach is used to examine similarities, differences, and trends in several stages of the 2025 conflict. The study addresses complex causal inferences by comparing the responses of various global actors over time, eliminating any other reason that could explain the success of the diplomatic interventions to prove how certain contexts played particular roles in the success of the intervention. The two-pronged approach will also ensure the results are not just descriptive but explanatory to give generalizable information concerning the South Asian dynamics of power.

This report of South Asian security trends states that scenario analysis is a key element necessary to help the researchers to run beyond simple forecasting and to provide readiness to various possibilities of future in complex regional systems.

Results and Analysis

The Geopolitical Shift

The four days of May 2025 (Operations Sindoor and Bunyaan-un-Marsoos) was a trigger point in a

significant change in the global strategic balance. The analysis below discusses the re-evaluation of key power partnerships, the formation of regional security blocks and the effect of such on the global trade infrastructure.

Re-strategy of Major Power Alliances

The United States: The Replacement of a Strategic Partner to a Realist Mediator

The 2025 war was a decisive turning point in the U.S. foreign policy in South Asia. After four days of military decline in May, which the U.S. administration announced, there was a visible change in the nature of the administration to no longer be India-centric, but to adopt a more transactional and pragmatic stance as a crisis mediator.

Mediator Role: The U.S. administration (and the president, in particular, Trump) intervened as a realistic negotiator rather than one-sidedly supporting India. The ceasefire tweet posted by Trump and his consequent brokering of the peace deal surpassed the expectation of both countries.

- **Pariah to Partner:** By 2025, Pakistan had transformed itself as a perceived diplomatic isolation to being a central strategic ally of the U.S. in the stability of the region. This geopolitical cordiality annoyed the Indian policymakers who had long opposed the third-party intervention in bilateral matters.

China: Confirmation of the CPEC Security Umbrella and military Technology

In the case of Beijing, the conflict of May 2025 was a conclusive real-life combat experiment on its most advanced weapon systems.

- **Battlefield Tests:** The first lesson is the so-called battlefield test of the hardware of Chinese origin. This war was the practical trial of J-10C fighter and the PL-15 long-range missile, as they were able to compete and win over the designs of the West.
- **Market Impact:** This has resulted in a "DeepSeek moment" of the Chinese defense industry with stocks of Chinese defense firms soaring as the world took an interest in the Chinese defense architecture which was described as being Sino-centric. When a Rafale was said to have been shot down (this was the first such combat casualty anywhere in the world) the share price of Dassault Aviation went down as well.

Russia: Striking the Balance between the Interests of the North-South Transport Corridor

Finding a balance amid an intricate web of long-term defense relationships between Russia and India, Russia has been moving towards a gradual process of engaging in cooperation with Pakistan in order to assure its own Eurasian connectivity ambitions. To the Indian Ocean, Moscow considers Pakistan a crucial pivot through which unhindered corridors should pass without being affected by regional unrest.

Regional Alliances: The Three Brothers Security Axis Comes into Being

Formalization of the Pakistan-Turkey-Azerbaijan bloc was one of the greatest results of 2025.

- **Operational Solidarity:** Unlike the past symbolic alliances, this axis offered actual-time diplomatic and intelligence services to the Islamabad war.
 - **Balancing on the Region:** The alliance has become seen as a three-way power hub which guarantees East West shipping routes and offers an independent option to Western or Russian-dominated security structures. This was entrenched by combined counterterrorism activities and major mutual defense agreements that were later signed throughout the year.
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Global Trade and Chokepoints Securities

The Indian Ocean war in 2025 highlighted the weakness of the world energy and trade routes.

- **Maritime Flashpoints:** The war indicated how sensitive the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb were. As much of the world trade passes by sea, any instability in the Arabian Sea has an immediate effect of creating instability in the market and supply chain.
- **Regionalization of Trade:** According to analysts, the trend is expected to move, taking the place of globalization, to regionalization as countries focus on more secure, neighbor-linked systems such as CPEC, as opposed to integrated international routes which have become the battlefields of naval domination and securitization.

Summary of the Fog of war clearing Fog of war clearing: A Decisive Geopolitical Reset

The fog of war which had been shrouding the subcontinent since the May escalation is finally lifting by December 2025 and shows a radically different strategic environment. South Asia is not a unipolar region anymore whose characteristics have been typified by the Indian hegemony; it has now shifted to multipolar arena where the Strategic Myth of the Indian conventional dominance has been buried. The counter-offensive of Operation Bunyaan-un-Marsoos, the precision counter-offensive of Pakistan, broke the decades long assumptions of the West and India about the dominance of escalation. Weakening the vital military bases and destroying high-technology equipment such as the Rafale, Pakistan determined a new conventional balance of power. This reversal proved the idea that even hard limiting war could be won using limited warfare even in the nuclear shadow without precipitating the armageddon, as long as one has the technological maturity and the determination to fight.

Pakistan has therefore come out as the ideal pivot state. Islamabad is no longer treated as a peripheral player since it has used the achievements of its military to obtain high-level strategic affiliations. This involves the replacement of "deal-based relationships by becoming a pillar in the **U.S.** regional vision, the institutionalization of a security umbrella with **China**, and the establishment of formal security axis with the neighbors of the West such as Turkey and Azerbaijan. Pakistan has succeeded in redefining the strategic map by introducing innovative Chinese hardware with its local cyber and kinetic, which means that further stability of South Asia can no longer be discussed without an equal level of multipolar dialogue.

Discussion

The End of Diplomatic Isolation: An Examination of how Military Success is converted into Diplomatic Leverage

The clear-cut resolution of the May 2025 war was a strategic re-set of the Pakistan foreign policy. Past incidences whereby military intensification resulted in international calls to do more or risk being isolated had become common practice but the outcome of Operation Bunyaan-un-Marsoos made a complete turnaround to this fact. According to the observers, Pakistan has shifted to an undesired state into a central position in adding stability to the region due to its display of advanced traditional and cyber capabilities.

One of the major signs of this new leverage was the radical change in the U.S. policy. The Trump administration has since left the long-established doctrine of India First, which places Pakistan at the heart of its South Asian policy. The September 2025 meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir and the President Trump at the White House were known as a visit that was termed as a revolution of re-established ties. Moreover, Pakistan used its military strength to reach Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia commonly known as the first Muslim NATO which indicates the change in Gulf-Asian security alignment of the history.

International Law Problems: The UN and the Future of the Concept of defensive necessity in 2025

International legal order credibility was a big challenge as the escalation of 2025 happened. Although India also defended its operation in Sindoor in the name of counter-terrorism, the answer of Pakistan was well balanced to take note of the principles of necessity, proportionality and distinction. Islamabad manipulated the international humanitarian law to make its victory within the military installations boundaries; this tactic managed to draw worldwide sympathy.

Nevertheless, the war also revealed the weaknesses in the enforcement of treaties by the UN namely the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). The move by India to suspend the treaty in the 2010 crisis was seen as a "dangerous trend" that has been pushing a diplomatic limit with impunity, and a new paradigm of bilateral and great-power mediation in defence of sovereignty was no longer seen as dependent on multilateral institutional frameworks but instead, bilateral and great-power mediation.

Economic Consequences: Victory effects on the FDI in the Region and the Tech-Military market

The financial consequences of the triumph had brought out a sharp difference between the two competitors. India incurred huge economic costs of a loss of up to 2-3 billion dollars in a space of only 4 days through lost hardware, investor panic, and a freeze on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).⁹ The devaluation of the Rafale jet, a symbol of western military-industrial prestige was reported, and it led to a drop in the share price of its manufacturer, Dassault Aviation and a re-evaluation of procurement plans by countries as far away as Indonesia in favour of its ally, China.

Pakistan on the other hand passed through an economic revival.

- **Defense Exports:** The IDEAS 2025 conference produced an all-time high of 30 billion MoUs as governments around the world showed ample interest in the battle-tested technologies of Pakistan, such as the J-10C integration and electronic jamming suites.
- **FDI and CPEC:** The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) boosted confidence in the so-called security umbrella that was evidenced in the course of the war. This was followed by major investments of up to 10 billion dollars by the UAE and the expansion of mineral mining projects with China.
- **Digital Economy:** The rise of Pakistan as a regional cyber superpower added a lot of impetus to its software development industry drawing in tech-military companies seeking solid command and control (C2) infrastructure offerings.

Conclusion

Summary of Findings: The Global Order No Longer Unipolar but Regional Multipolar

The 2025 Pakistan-India conflict was a significant sign of the transition to a multiplex world order, as opposed to the unipolar one, and the post-Cold War period. The fact that more than three dozen countries are already taking part in the de-escalation move is indicative of the fact that the U.S. ceases to enjoy a monopoly in managing crisis in the region.

The victory of the operation of Bunyaan-un-Marsoos was the trigger to crush the myth of the Indian conventional superiority, which compelled the major powers to re-hyphenate their South Asian policies. Pakistan has successfully been able to switch its status as a security consumer to a security provider through its experience in battle technology where it has been able to allow itself to emerge as pivot in the region between the West, China and the Islamic world.

Policy Recommendations: How the International Organizations can deal with Post-Victory Regional Stability

The international organizations and regional stakeholders must consider the following strategies in order to maintain the limited peace that already exists post May 2025 ceasefire:

- **Strengthen Technical Multilateralism:** The UN and ASEAN must shift towards functional cooperation, which is disaster relief, climate change, and humanitarian transactions (e.g., prisoner repatriation) in order to establish low-stakes trust.
- **Learn to Live with Arms Control:** International institutions need to enable new mechanisms of arms race stability, namely to regulate the use of so-called non-contact vectors of arms race including long-range drones and cyber-kinetic arms that are currently in a legal gray area.
- **Revive Regional Structures:** South Asia is in dire need of reimagining SAARC by making economic collaboration political without aligning national interests to avoid keeping South Asia the least integrated region in the globe.
- **Mediatory Diversification:** The big powers must also uphold a multi-actor system of conflict prevention by welcoming Middle Powers (e.g., Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar) to take proactive and long-term roles as neutral guarantors of stability.

Future Research Research Suggestions: Long-term Impact on Nuclear Deterrence Stability

The Stability-Instability Paradox of 2025 has presented fresh prospects of scholarly research into the topic of the Stability-Instability Paradox in the era of intelligitized warfare. Subsequent studies ought to be conducted on:

- **Nuclear-Conventional Entanglement:** In exploring the relationship between the use of strategic conventional capabilities (such as the J-10C/PL-15 combo) and the nuclear break even point and incentives of the adversary.
- **Normalization of Limited War:** Examining the psychological effect of the new abnormal in which limited military operations are carried out under the nuclear shadow and which may be de-escalating taboo.
- **Effects of Novel Technology:** Assessing the challenges of integrating AI-enabled C2 systems, and missile defense system upgrades (e.g., S-400 vs. HQ-9) in the concept of second-strike capability and crisis-stability in South Asia.

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