



13TH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

HOLISTIC APPROACH TO **NATIONAL GROWTH** AND **SECURITY**

15TH - 16TH OCTOBER 2020

Defence and Strategic Studies

ABSTRACTS



General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University



13TH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

HOLISTIC APPROACH TO NATIONAL GROWTH AND SECURITY

DEFENCE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

ABSTRACTS



General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

Ratmalana, Sri Lanka

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Message from the Hon. Minister of Education



It gives me immense pleasure to send this message on the occasion of the 13th International Research Conference of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU). I would like to congratulate the KDU for being able to conduct its International Research Conference in 2020, consecutively for the 13th time. It is not an easy task to organize such a momentous event particularly under many difficulties and challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic situation. It is gratifying to witness that KDU, the only Defence University in the country, has been able to transform a challenge into an opportunity, as it usually does.

The theme of the conference, namely the “Holistic Approach to National Growth and Security,” is very timely and of great significance for deliberation in expert panels of this conference. The nexus between National Growth and National Security is closely interwoven. The ‘development’ and ‘security’ of a country cannot be compartmentalized and discussed in isolation of each other. There is no security for a nation without economic and social progress, and likewise, economic and social progress cannot be achieved without stability and a secure environment. I hope various panels of this conference will be able to discuss many facets of national growth and security and their interconnectedness. These two areas have a direct bearing on the development of Sri Lanka, a country which succeeded in ending a 30-year long separatist war. In the context of the present need for robust development, it is absolutely necessary to engage in serious research which leads to discoveries as well as policy-oriented recommendations. Therefore, all academic establishments must provide a conducive space for their intellectuals to reach new frontiers in research. I am glad that KDU is setting an example for all other universities in Sri Lanka in this regard. I hope this year’s conference will produce significant research outcomes and I wish this conference all the success.

Hon. Professor GL Peiris,
Minister of Education

Message from the Secretary, Ministry of Defence



I am delighted to send the best wishes to the KDU on this significant occasion of the annual international research conference. I would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chancellor and the team for continuing the tradition of organizing this conference consecutively for the 13th time, despite the emerging contested health environment.

This year's conference theme: "Holistic Approach to National Growth and Security" focuses on the National Growth and National Security as core concepts, and it, further, suggests that 'development' and 'security' of a country should always go hand in hand. Therefore, this conference would undoubtedly become a vital forum to discuss an area of study which has a direct bearing on the development interests of our motherland.

I am glad that KDU, under our ministerial guidance, is setting an example for all other universities in Sri Lanka in progressing research in many academic fields. I hope this year's conference will produce a significant research outcome that the policy community of Sri Lanka could utilize to support the present development drive. Further, I would like to urge the conference organizers to see the possibility of distributing the conference outcome to all the relevant Ministries and Departments of the country so that these entities could link with the researchers and employ their valuable research outcomes for the benefit of the nation.

I wish that KDU IRC 2020 will enhance the wisdom of all the participants to serve Mother Lanka for a better tomorrow.

Major General (Retd) GDH Kamal Gunaratne

WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil

Secretary - Ministry of Defence

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



The International Research Conference taking place for the 13th consecutive time is a landmark in terms of keeping continuity of events at KDU. This year's conference attracted a large number of paper submissions and it indicates the enthusiasm growing in the country on development and security research.

KDU, from its inception, was instrumental in handing down the core values of security to the development paradigm in Sri Lanka. This year's theme 'Holistic Approach to National Growth and Security' highlights the importance of maintaining a harmonious blend in security and development in all national projects.

I believe the efforts of security-based education aiming at strengthening national development should be more cooperative in the future and KDU has always facilitated any research efforts that strengthens the national security of our nation. We urge the academic community of Sri Lanka to join hands with us in all our future endeavours to support the nation especially through productive research in diverse disciplines.

The organizers of the KDU international research conference intend to set the tone to initiate more collaborative research at national and global levels. This research conference is an ideal platform to make connections. I hope that authors of KDU and various other local and international universities will take the opportunity to interact and develop friendly relationships, establish networks and to explore win-win situations. I wish all the very best for the presenters and hope you will enjoy every moment of this academic fusion taking place on two whole days.

Major General Milinda Peiris

RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil (Ind) PGDM

Vice Chancellor

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

Message from the Conference Chair



For the thirteenth consecutive year, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University organizes its International Research Conference (KDU IRC 2020), and this year it is held on the theme 'Holistic Approach to National Growth and Security'. It is with great pleasure and honour, the organizing committee extends its greetings to all of you taking part in KDU IRC 2020. Holding the KDU IRC 2020, under the patronage of the Vice Chancellor, amidst many challenges encountered throughout the year, was memorable experience for me, and I believe that the organizing committee was able to accomplish a very successful mission.

KDU IRC 2020 is a tremendous opportunity for researchers all over the world encompassing various disciplines such as Defence and Strategic Studies; Medicine; Engineering; Management, Social Sciences and Humanities; Law; Built Environment and Spatial Sciences; Allied Health Sciences; Basic and Applied Sciences and Computing to present their research to fellow scholars, professionals and students.

Interestingly, the theme of KDU IRC 2020 is dedicated to the national growth and security, and it reflects the prime concerns of contemporary Sri Lanka as a nation and researches based on a holistic approach towards the national growth and security would enhance the quality in all aspects in a timely manner. In this backdrop, the esteemed speakers of all plenary sessions and research presenters of all technical sessions will cater to the same objective.

Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to all the authors, participants and the organizing committee of KDU IRC 2020, and I encourage all of you to enjoy the KDU hospitality during these two fruitful days.

Dr. L. Pradeep Kalansooriya

Dr-Eng, MSc, BSc, MIEEE, MCSSL
Conference Chair

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PLENARY SESSION

Holistic Approach to National Growth and Security: An Army Perspective

Major General P R Wanigasooriya VSV USP ndu USACGSC

Commandant, Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force

The holistic approach to national growth and security revolves around national security, as a matter of concern to every state and its citizens. We can define national security as an umbrella of protecting the core values that enable people to lead a life on their shared common beliefs by preserving their national identity, sovereignty, economic and social wellbeing. This paper discusses few facts of national security and highlight its significance in achieving sustainable peace and harmony in Sri Lanka. National Security has a direct impact on holistic national growth and economic development of a state. Hence, as a developing country, Sri Lanka has number of challenges to overcome for long term economic development.

The country faces threats manifesting in the Indian Ocean Region, and threats Specific to Sri Lanka being an Island Nation. The geostrategic location of Sri Lanka poses challenges and offers many opportunities. By using these opportunities, the country can overcome aforementioned threats. As a way forward, the paper highlights several key elements such as protecting territorial integrity and maritime security environment, containing foreign interference in domestic affairs, addressing environmental degradation and climatic change, countering the religious fundamentalism, and protecting ecological balance and enhanced ability for disaster mitigation. Being the best land force of the nation, Sri Lanka Army engages the grass roots by playing an active role to ensuring the holistic growth and security of the nation.

Keywords: *National Security, Sustainable Peace, Threats, Opportunities, Environment Fundamentalism, Land forces*

Securing Sri Lanka: The Post-Easter Sunday Threat Landscape in Sri Lanka

Professor Rohan Gunaratna

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technology University, Singapore

The Easter Sunday massacre scarred the psyche of Sri Lankans for many generations to come. To this date, the Easter Sunday massacre on April 21, 2019 remains one of the deadliest terrorist attack outside Iraq and Syria. In the fulcrum of Sri Lankan politics, the Easter Sunday attack shaped the electoral outcomes. The presidential and parliamentary elections in 2019 and 2020 respectively rejected both the national and Muslim community leaders that failed their constituencies and their country.

The Muslim leadership is blamed for neglecting community radicalization and then leaders stand accused for compromising security. Two questions remain unanswered. First, has the Muslim leaders done enough to reverse radicalization. Second, has the government built the deep expertise and capacity to prevent and preempt the next attack.

The wave of radicalization and terrorism by Muslim threat groups, networks, cells and personalities presents a global, regional and a national threat. Sri Lanka's future economic prosperity rests in social harmony and political stability. The key is to groom visionary, collective, and decisive leaders to manage a national security framework to manage current and emerging ethnic and religious challenges.

Keywords: *Easter Sunday attack, Leadership, Radicalization*

Making Sense of China's Security Outlook: Concept and Practice

Rong Ying

Vice President, China Institute of International Studies

In May 2015, China published a white paper entitled *China's Military Strategy*, in which a new security outlook or concept was officially presented, namely, the “overall” or “holistic” security concept (*zongti anquan guan*). According to the white paper, China's security outlook incorporates both domestic and international security; security for the homeland with security for overseas citizens, enterprises and other interests; and the interests related to the nation's survival with those needed for its development, thus encompassing eleven security fields: political, territorial, military, economic, cultural, social, science and technological, information, ecological, financial and nuclear.

China's holistic security outlook reflects a thinking that views all security fields as interrelated and inseparable. Formulated to align security policy with developmental policy objectives, the holistic security outlook adopts a dialectical approach by advocating “development depends on security” and “security requires development”. Ever since its introduction, China's holistic security outlook has served as a conceptual framework and policy guideline for its strategic planning and policy practice.

No cases of policy practice would be better demonstrated by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which promotes better connectivity for development and has served as a test ground for practicing this concept, arguing a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security for all.

In addition, China continues to abide by its long-standing principle of noninterference in other countries' internal affairs while is now playing an increasingly proactive in facilitating and mediating hot spot issues in its neighborhood and beyond by providing Chinese thinking, wisdom and solutions.

Keywords: *International security; Security for the homeland, Neighborhood*

Holistic National Growth and Security

Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi

Executive Director

COMSATS Islamabad, Pakistan

Historically national growth and development have had an inextricable link with national security. The issues of conflict, war and peace hinged on how nations defined and protected their economic interests. This involved sound security outlook and requisite strategic measures. Today, in view of the major global transformations being witnessed in the phase of the fourth industrial revolution, this nexus has become even more pronounced. With increased connectivity and global interdependence, economic growth has become a major determinant of national security and so has national development. Trade and investment, capability of human resource, effective governance, efficient use of natural and financial resources, secure social environment have acquired critical importance. Along with diplomatic manoeuvres, the inherent strength of the nation lends credible role in shaping global agenda. It also creates space for promoting national interests through cooperation rather than competition. The Belt and Road Initiative for example is a project that encompasses socio-economic uplift of various regions through growth and development. The infrastructure development and the setting up of financial institutions are aimed at creating systematic and uninterrupted flow of supply chain for unhindered trade. National consensus on policies and the constructive engagement of people give added boost to national growth and security as a whole. This can only be achieved through a holistic approach to national growth and security that quintessentially take multiple factors and determinants in view.

Keywords: *Security outlook, Global transformations, Growth and Development*

An Ocean Dependent Growth & Security for an Island Nation: A Holistic View of Strengths and Weaknesses

Rear Admiral YN Jayarathna

Sri Lanka Navy

The growth & security of any nation are inter-dependant; no growth without security & no security without a growth either. There is no developed country in the world that had reached the 'developed' status without security. Thus, in today's world it is pertinent to study why the island nations such as Sri Lanka continue to remain in a whirlpool without being able to strike a balance in Growth & Security to develop for better.

The paper will examine these two balancing factors in an environment under new paradigm shifts of the 21st century. The China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) and USA's Indo-Pacific turn-about has put this Island Nation in the Indian Ocean at a Judgement point. The world today is ocean dependent & everyone talks on matters maritime, except may be us; the epicentre of attention in BRI and Indo-Pacific saga! Geo-politically it is visible how clustered formations being formed to address threats posed by each other at a time when lesser players are struggling for stability both in economy and growth whilst addressing their own security concerns of traditional and non-traditional nature. However, matters of maritime today, whether traditional or non-traditional, cannot be addressed single handed, thus demands cooperation and collaboration. This propels small players to play a partner role and to be in par with bigger players irrespective of economic or military might. The new decade will be a challenging one for States; both its rulers and instruments. Therefore, the paper argues on the value of understanding own strengths to address our weaknesses. The Island Nation's future ahead is secured only when its people have a consensus approach to the future; a future of Growth & Security with a clear road-map of how to achieve it.

Keywords: *Maritime Studies, Geopolitics, Geo-Strategy*

Covid-19 and its Impact on Global Terrorism Trend

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The COVID-19 pandemic paralyzed the entire world within a span of a few months. As every state continues to grapple with the consequences of a large-scale pandemic, a significant portion of its national resources have been diverted to prevent the collapse of the national healthcare system, as well as to mitigate the economic fallouts. Meanwhile, the lifestyles of the common masses have significantly slowed down, inducing a massive transformation of our day-to-day lives. From a defence and security perspective, large scale conflicts and terrorist activities more specifically, have seemingly lost momentum during the past few months, which has been largely attributed to the spread of the pandemic. Against this backdrop, this research examines the overall impact of COVID-19 on the global terrorism trend. While overall terrorist activities around the world have plunged in the recent months, law enforcement agencies still have enough reasons to be wary. Terrorist groups have adapted to and capitalized on the changing circumstances in the 'new normal'. The state's shift in national policy and the re-distribution of its national resources in mitigating the negative impact of COVID-19 has created a security void to a certain extent, whereby creating an operational window of opportunity for terrorist groups. Further, the surge of internet users during the pandemic further exposes radical and extremist narratives that facilitate radicalization and recruitment among the masses. This research explores both short- and long-term opportunities and risks posed for terrorist groups due to the pandemic, as well as implications for counterterrorism.

Keywords: *COVID-19; Pandemic, Terrorism, Counterterrorism*

Significance of Peace, Stability and Regional Cooperation for Economic Progress in South Asia

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Peace and stability within a state and its neighbourhood, along with economic wellbeing of the citizens, are an essential national goals of every nation in the world, regardless of the prevalent political system. In order to achieve these objectives, all nations/countries develop their national policies and strategies and pursue their foreign policies at regional and global level. In the contemporary world, we live in a highly inter-dependent global economic system, which is guided and controlled by national interests of respective nations. At the domestic level, peace and political stability is essential for attaining economic progress. Whereas at regional and global level, cooperation with other countries, particularly in respective regions is equally important. Political and economic cooperation helps to promote regional stability and connectivity, which is a prerequisite for promotion of commerce and trade among various countries. In order to ensure peace and stability, along with internal harmony and cohesion, each nation needs a peaceful neighbourhood as well. Therefore, it is imperative that, in addition to adopting friendly foreign policy towards neighbouring countries, each nation must practice peaceful means to resolve inter-national disputes and conflicts through mutual dialogue and negotiations. The South Asian region, which is a home of more than 1.9 billion people has remained colonized for almost two centuries, and in case of Sri Lanka for over four centuries. The regional integration could facilitate promotion of commerce and trade and open new opportunities for economic progress in the region. If peace and stability is ensured, besides adhering to the principle of non-interference in internal matters of other states, South Asia has a great future for economic progress and prosperity.

Keywords: *Peace, Economic Wellbeing, Regional Cooperation, Non-interference*

Fostering Growth by Ensuring National Security – An Airman’s Perspective

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Growth and National Security of a nation are intertwined: National Security underpins growth and without Security growth may not be possible, whilst the lack of growth can impinge negatively on national security and vice versa. Both facets, Growth and National Security, are mutually inclusive and essential for a country, each facet is dynamic in nature being driven by both external and internal factors and require constant review and reform to remain relevant and effective to a country. In addition, achieving sustainable growth whilst ensuring National Security is a complex task which needs a robust, rapid and continuous review process in place. For a democracy, the added task of having to garner consensus across the spectrum of stakeholders responsible for growth and for ensuring national security of a country is also to be considered. The Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF), which is one of the stakeholders in this holistic approach to national growth and security of the country fosters national security through both classic and supportive roles. Though a number of classic roles of the SLAF was evident during the thirty-year conflict, its role in a peacetime environment has received less attention. This paper attempts to trace the inter-relationship between National Security and Growth whilst exploring the roles undertaken by the Sri Lanka Air Force in peacetime to ensure National Security. It also explores how these roles, both classic and supportive, contribute to the creation of a conducive environment for growth, describing how the SLAF’s evolving peacetime role becomes part of the holistic approach to national growth and security of Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *airman, holistic growth, national security, peacetime roles*

Holistic Approach to National Growth and Security

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Economy has entered into the national security debate through its impact on the nations' hard power, funding for defence, efficacy of the defence industrial base and the use of economic coercive instruments. Understanding of the intricacies of economics and security paradigm is important to evolve a wholesome response against multitude of threats which impinge upon national security.

Security is achieved not only by military means but by the whole of a country's economy. National security consists of physical security, economic security and protection of national values. It depends on hard and soft power of a country, ability to generate and use its economic power and to project its national values. Analysis reveals that the long-term security depends greatly on having a vibrant and growing economy.

Role of economy in formulation of national security policy is best described with the help of its overlapping roles. Economic growth depends both on sufficient aggregate demand by households, businesses and by growing supply. It also dependent on increasing the productivity of workers. The rate of economic growth stems from both demand and supply. Technological innovation plays main role for long term economic growth. Growth ceases unless the technology of production improves exponentially.

Globalization creates greater economic, political, social, and cultural interactions across the globe and is thus a source of great dynamism. Global developments suggest the need for broadening definition of national security to include resource, environmental and demographic issues.

Speaker argues that for everyone, rich or poor, located in the developing or developed countries, security is an important constituent of well-being. The speech emphasises the importance of security and development nexus. It also suggest how technological advancements in the domain of cyber-physical systems, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Machine Learning, coupled with non-lethal components like Diplomacy, Information, Economics and bilateral engagements can play a much bigger and decisive role.

Keywords: *Holistic Approach, National Growth, Globalization*



ORAL PRESENTATIONS

The Significance of Co-operative Maritime Diplomacy to Curb Transnational Maritime Crimes in Sri Lanka

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In this paper researcher is attempting to research contemporary requirement of Sri Lanka to build better international relationship with countries through co-operative maritime diplomacy, in order to curb the transnational crimes to the Island. This area of study mainly concentrates into management of international relations through the maritime domain. The co-operative maritime diplomacy is sub concept of maritime diplomacy and it is used maritime assets and resources to manage international relations with co-operation. The Island features of Sri Lanka and geo strategic location in the Indian Ocean Region, giving greater prospects to exploit maritime opportunities. On the other hand, this country faces many non-traditional security issue. Therefore, Sri Lanka has to manage the maritime environment around the country, building better understanding with regional and extra regional countries to counter this menace which greatly affect to the national security. My research problem highlighted the timely requirement of interstate cooperation to curb transnational maritime crimes in Sri Lanka. This puzzling issue highlights the significance of understanding the concept of cooperative maritime diplomacy and its use. The objective of this paper is to draw attention to understand the methods could be used under co-operative maritime diplomacy to curb the transnational maritime threat to the country. The researcher has selected qualitative research method with collecting data from secondary sources and this includes scholarly articles, books, case studies, journals, etc. Further, the researcher forwards data with his personnel observation. A theoretical review is discussed with the theory of 'Strategy as Practice'.

Keywords: *Co-operation, Interstate, Strategy*

Safety of Life at Sea: Current Status of Sri Lanka

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Asia is rising as the global economic power. Consequently, seaborne activities including flow of maritime trade container port activities, cruise industry as well as the fishery activities are increasing in the Indian Ocean. It hosts the most critical Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs) in the globe. Therefore, maintaining of security and safety of the Indian Ocean is a prime concern of littoral states as well as other major maritime users. Considering the location of Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean and as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1974 Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention and 1979 Search and Rescue (SAR) convention, the government is obliged to ensure the maritime safety within her SAR region. Therefore, this paper aims to examine the current status of maritime safety in the Sri Lanka Search and Rescue Region. The paper concludes with some practical policy recommendations.

Keywords: Search and Rescue, Maritime Safety, SAR Region

Hambanthota: Revival of Maritime Silk Route Indo-Pacific Strategy, Power Rivalry in the Region and its Impact on Sri Lanka

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Significant shift in the United States' focus from Middle East to South Asia and more towards South East Asia, which is now termed as the Indo-Pacific Region also a considerable change in their foreign policy. The Hambanthota harbor which was built solely from the funding by China under its "One Belt One Road" strategy is also considered as a part of "String of Pearls" which encircle the India strategically from the south also a major security concerns of India, a major ally of United States in the Indo-Pacific Region. Sri Lanka with her geostrategic location attracts higher level of concerns of the regional and global economic powers. With the traditional strategic power rivalry between India and China in the region Sri Lanka has undergone and still facing many consequences. Whatever the concerns may be, Sri Lanka needs to maintain equilibrium in foreign policy in order to achieve her development goals without antagonizing major players in the region. Sri Lanka needs to correctly identify the contemporary regional and global strategic environment and needs to maintain a well-balanced foreign policy accommodating India and China as well as the extra regional powers like USA, Japan and Australia. During this endeavour writer expect to find out the growing socio-political and geo-strategic concerns of the India, China, USA and the other key players in the Indo-Pacific Region and its impact on Sri Lanka.

Keywords- *Indo-Pacific Region, India, China, USA, Sri Lanka*

Prospects of Improving Civil-Military Integration to Address Maritime Drug Trafficking in Sri Lanka

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Centrality of its location in east west sea lanes has placed Sri Lanka in both advantageous and disadvantageous positions in the context of national security. Though Sri Lanka does not have an immediate threat for her national security in the form of a traditional way, expansions in non-traditional security issues cannot be ruled out easily. Drug trafficking has become one of the serious non-traditional security threats and the existence of the issue is so complex that military alone cannot address it effectively. Therefore, the researcher examined and explored the problem of identifying lapses in civil- military integration in countering drug trafficking and has brought out certain recommendations to enhance such integration. Since this issue mostly affects the Sri Lankan society, the survey method has been used and experts in both military and civil sector in maritime security as well as drugs and narcotics fields have been interviewed to gather primary data. The qualitative approach facilitated the researcher to better analyse their opinions and subsequently test and compare their validity with available literature such as drug apprehension reports, journals and articles. It was revealed that the level of integration between civil and military is at a very lower level in this context. Thus, understanding the gaps between civil and military and their abilities at having effective counter drug mechanisms would benefit society as it is able to have a peaceful, uncorrupted and secure environment. Certainly, this healthy integration would not only be applicable for a drug trafficking scenario, but also to have better counter actions for other non-traditional security issues as well.

Keywords- *Attitudinal Changes, Civil-Military Cooperation, Maritime Domain Awareness, Non-traditional Security Threats*

The Indo-Pacific: An Examination of Regional Instruments for Improved Coordination

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The Indo-Pacific has become the focal point of discussion among strategists in the 21st century, which is evident from the implementation of different instruments such as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). The strategic posture entailed within the Indo-Pacific security architecture necessitates a military balance of power within the region, as the power rivalry in the Indian Ocean has evolved beyond military aspects into economic, ideological and technical dimensions. Therefore, this research examines how these international instruments could be better coordinated, in order to improve the balance of power in the region. Towards this end, this research has two objectives, firstly, to map out the different regional mechanisms that are in position to improve interaction; and secondly, to analyse what steps need to be taken to improve the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific. Qualitative in nature, the research utilises primary sources such as the strategy documents issued by governments and security groupings, speeches from world leaders, along with secondary sources. The research underscores that the oceans of the Indo-Pacific remains central to this evolving power struggle, as the economic centre of gravity shifts to the East, necessitating peaceful interaction to increase trust and improve the balance of power. FOIP assures a proactive contribution to peace based on the principle of international cooperation, encouraging likeminded navies in the region to increase collaboration and cooperation. In conclusion, it can be ascertained that the increased number of regional groupings has reduced the level of trust within the Indo-Pacific thus, calling for more synergies and understanding among international instruments.

Keywords: *Coordination, Free and Open Indo-Pacific, Indo-Pacific, Quadrilateral Security Dialogue*

Analysing Covid-19 as a Modern Strategy in International Power Game

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'New Coronavirus' or 'COVID-19' is identified as a 'pandemic' by the World Health Organization. Apart from the concerns on health security of world population, this pandemic was able to create chaos in the international power game since Western politics accused China for the invention of the virus. However, who is responsible? is yet a mystery to be resolved. Therefore, the problem statement of this study is to find out "whether COVID-19 is a bioweapon China used as a modern strategy in world power game?". In order to find feasible solutions, this study consists of the research questions of; whether 'COVID-19' is a natural virus? Or an artificially constructed virus? Or a virus invented to be used as a biological weapon? the pros and cons for China as a result of 'COVID-19'?

With these, the weightage of this research will be more to reveal the pragmatism behind accusations inline to international power game. Therefore, the objective of this study is to analyse the relevance of this pandemic in international power game. It is also important to note that this is an explorative study and in order to achieve the research goals, the research methodology adopted in this study is qualitative, based on secondary sources of media and internet. Ultimately, it is the prime objective of this study is to understand new global geopolitical realities of super powers by means of soft power rivalry and further to navigate its' impact on State security.

Keywords: Covid-19, Biological Weapon, International Power Game

The Impact of Leader Images in Sri Lanka's Foreign Policy Making from 2005 to 2019

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Any leader of a country, as its foreign policy executive (FPE), may perceive systemic stimuli with surgical precision, hence positioning his country in a foreign policy trajectory, which in turn facilitates the realization of its goals and aspirations. However, a nation state, since its inception in 1648, will encounter dire political repercussions if the said systemic signals are perceived with abject failure by the FPE thus plunging the country into a vortex of self – destruction. In this backdrop, this article attempts to examine whether Mahinda Rajapaksa (MR), between 2005 and 2015 as well as Maithripala Sirisena (MS) in conjunction with Ranil Wickremesinghe (RW), between 2015 and 2019, as FPEs, were successful in grasping systemic stimuli hence exercising a pragmatic foreign policy. The authors shall further discuss the above with a particular emphasis on Sri Lanka's relations with the United States (US), China and India between 2005 and 2019 amidst their great power play in the theatre of the Indian Ocean. Furthermore, this research shall attempt to examine whether leader perceptions are the sole determining factors of a foreign policy which alternated between pro – China and pro – West. This is a qualitative case study which involves the deductive method. The authors will analyze both primary and secondary data in the adoption of a qualitative approach. The research will derive its propositions from Neo-Classical Realism in the discipline of international relations, particularly in analyzing the correlation between foreign policy and the domestic intervening variable of leader images in foreign policy making of Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Sri Lanka, Foreign Policy, Mahinda Rajapaksa*

The Role of Sri Lanka's Private Security Sector in Assisting the Nation During Pandemics and Natural Disasters

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The role of private security companies (PSC) has become ever more significant in the 21st century as the world faces increasingly complex threats which require holistic and multidimensional solutions. Non-traditional security threats such as natural disasters and pandemics which could imperil the very survival of humanity have become a focal point in contemporary security studies and analysis. Many international organisations and nation states have deployed private military companies to provide a wide range of security services in fulfilling and achieving much broader strategic objectives. Private security companies are certainly not a substitute for a military and should not be considered as one. However, private security companies play a fundamental role in reinforcing the national effort during times of natural disasters, pandemics and national crisis situations. In the wake of the recent COVID- 19 pandemic which has plagued the world, the importance of private security companies as an effective force in preventing the spread of the virus and providing assistance during national crisis situations has been recognised through many success stories which have transpired from across the globe. This paper will explore how PSCs have become an important part of the civil-military relations and homeland security paradigms. This paper argues that PSCs in Sri Lanka have a fundamental role to play in order to meet the demands of a new strategic environment and new sources of non- traditional security threats.

Keywords: *Private Security, Homeland Security, Civil-Military relations, COVID-19, Pandemic, Natural Disaster*

Introduction of Nuclear Power Plants to Sri Lanka: National Growth and Security Perspectives

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Nuclear technology is a vibrant application in the power and energy sector all over the world. At present more than 450 nuclear power plants (NPP) are contributing more than one-tenth of electricity generation all over the world. However, few concerned the use of NPP as their power source. Being a developing country, the energy demand in Sri Lanka is ever-increasing. Frequent power crises highlight the necessity of having reliable power sources to cater the base load of the country comfortably to achieve the national growth of the country. Nuclear power can be considered as one such alternative to introduce electricity mix for Sri Lanka. Other than the higher capital cost and complexity of technology, the nuclear safety, and security aspects are the other main concerns which negate the nuclear favour. Energy security is an element of national security and a pre-requisite of the development process of a country due to the nexus between national security and national growth.

Keywords: Nuclear, Security, National Growth

The Impact of EU'S Externalization Polices on Libya

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The asylum mechanisms of Europe (EU) have been challenged due to the sudden influx of asylum seekers who come from the Middle Eastern and African regions. This has further led to reinforce the externalization of border management policies of the EU that endangers the lives of asylum seekers. Externalization policies define extraterritorial state actions which prevent migrants, from entering the territories of destination countries or making them legally inadmissible without considering their protection claims. It includes range of processes whereby member states control the influx of migrants by taking unilateral, bilateral and multilateral arrangements. Since those activities have been considered as security imperatives, EU states often focus on transferring asylum seekers to another country by forming number of arrangements with non-EU countries. Within this underpinning, the core argument of this paper is that sending asylum seekers to detentions centers located in the countries like Libya is a violation of the International legal principle of Non-refoulement. This principle prevents sending asylum seekers to a country in which they would face dangers caused by civil disorders. It is also interlinked with Article 38 (1) of the Asylum Procedure Directive (2013) which ensures the protection of asylum seekers in transit zones. As highlighted in Article 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), border, asylum and immigration policies of EU are governed by the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility. The solidarity mainly delineates the capability of distributing asylum seekers among the member countries. In this setting, the key objectives of this paper are to explain the effectiveness of EU burden sharing mechanism and suggest a coordinated approach which can be sponsored by the member countries. The paper also concludes that the implementation of migration control agreements has undermined the concept of solidarity.

Keywords: *Asylum Seekers, Externalization, Non-Refoulement, Solidarity*

A Holistic Approach to National Security of Sri Lanka

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Most spoken effects of the 9/11 Chapter seem to fade away with the new development of the COVID 19 pandemic situation and beyond today. Priorities for security does not limit to terrorism where the world is discussing pandemic security, economic security, environmental security, and social security at large. However, it is not a new concept, and some countries are adopting similar strategies to manage their national interests since national security always depends on each nation's interests. Hence, it is pertinent to study the holistic approach to national security and see whether it is suitable for developing nations like Sri Lanka. First, Researchers selected countries already adopted a holistic approach to their national security for background study. Having considered Chinese, Indian, Pakistan, Singapore, USA, and United Nations (UN) approaches to national security, researchers decided ten important components to analyze as the literature. Moreover, the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2019 was used to select the most peaceful, average, and least peaceful five countries each to analyze whether those results have any impact on their approaches in particular. Finally, threat perception was taken into consideration to select the most suitable aspects to form a holistic approach to the national security of Sri Lanka and suggested an appropriate holistic approach to Sri Lanka by considering those factors and the present situation.

Keywords: *Holistic approach, National Security, Sri Lanka*

Recruitment Rhetoric: Media Strategies of the Islamic State and Al-Qa`ida

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Salafi-Jihadi information operations are designed to manipulate, radicalize, and recruit from the global Muslim population. This paper examines the global outreach operations of prominent Salafi-Jihadi groups, in an effort to outline suitable responses to Islamic extremism in the Sri Lankan context. It draws from in-depth studies of media strategies utilized by the Islamic State and Al-Qa`ida, based on their online presence, media outputs, and captured materials. It also considers information and analyses of primary source materials such as magazines, recruitment guides, and interviews with terrorists and their family members. These are discussed in the context of the broader strategy of al-Qa`ida and the Islamic State. Both organizations seek to exploit 'Islamaphobia' to recruit and radicalize individuals from a target audience on multiple 'impact' levels. Relevant methods are presented to consider the scope and depth of their information operations. Research findings that show propaganda campaigns are designed to have strategic as well as individual impacts to propagate ideology and inspire action are summarized. Recruitment and radicalization approaches based on both sociological studies and data from individual country experiences were then used to frame observable pathways to terrorism. An analytical lens based on risk factors is used to discuss recruitment tactics on structural, social, and individual levels. Recommendations for Sri Lanka to counter the spread of 'Islamaphobia', improve social integration, and counter extremism at a local level are presented for consideration by policy-makers.

Keywords: *Recruitment, Terrorist Strategy, Information Operations*

The Drivers of Islamist Extremism in Sri Lanka

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The vicious cycle of violent extremism based on religious and ethnic lines which continuous to plague the world as one of the greatest threats to global security has gained renewed momentum in recent times. The current trend of Islamist extremism rooted on Wahhabi or Salafi ideology has gradually spread its tentacles across the globe, creating a new breed of radical combatants that are significantly redefining the international security landscape.

The 4/21 multiple suicide bombings perpetrated by 'National Thowheeth Jamaath' (NTJ) on Easter Sunday, 2019 was the first major terrorist attack conducted in Sri Lanka by a Jihadist group that was inspired by the global Salafi Jihadist ideology advocated by ISIS. The Easter Sunday attacks entail multiple national security implications including the fact that such an attack has the potential to inspire others to conduct similar acts of terror and increase support for the Jihadist cause. Salafi Jihadist groups have maintained resilience and has grown in large numbers despite global counterterrorism efforts. This is primarily due to the fact that security strategists and policy makers have failed to address the drivers of Islamist extremism, misunderstood the enemy and misinterpreted their understanding of the global Jihadist ideology. Therefore, in order to effectively prevent and counter Islamist Extremism, it is imperative to identify and understand the drivers of Salafi Jihadist groups which vary across cultures and regions. Even though there are many forms of extremism which is prevalent in the local context, this paper will provide an in-depth analysis on the murky world of Islamist extremism and its evolution in Sri Lanka. This paper which focuses on identifying the drivers of Islamist Extremism in Sri Lanka includes both academic and policy implications.

Keywords: *Violent Extremism, Counterterrorism, ISIS, NTJ, LTTE, Salafi Jihad, Radicalisation, PCVE*

Re-thinking the Sri Lankan Approach of Countering Islamist Violent Extremism

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With the rise of Islamic State (IS), South Asian terrorist groups have been vehemently influenced since many of the terror groups such as Tanẓim Ansar al-Tawheed fi Bilad al-Hind, Tehreek-e-Khilafat, Jundullah etc. have pledged allegiance (bayath) to IS in 2014 and 2015. Also, in 2015 Islamic State Khorasan Province (IS-K) was established in the Afghan-Pak border to enhance the tentacles of IS. Besides, many of the South Asian individuals have been stimulated to join as foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq or to conduct home-grown attacks influenced by IS ideology. After the demise of the IS in Iraq and Syria in 2019, IS has focused on the Indian Subcontinent due to the continuation of violence in the region which assist to foster new dimension of terrorist threats in the region. In such context, the nature of the Islamist extremism in Sri Lanka could be defined as a problem which has occurred in the 'periphery' (international) but relates to the 'core' (domestic) due to the created fault lines in the local context. Within such context, this research intends to highlight four aspects in dealing with Islamist extremism in Sri Lanka: 1) Importance of understanding the changing nature of Islamist extremism in the periphery 2) The influence of Islamist extremism in the core 3) Mutually exclusiveness of the growing Islamist extremism with the counter approach implemented in Sri Lanka 4) Reasons for such mismatch in counter approach and the problem of countering Islamist extremism in Sri Lanka. Finally, it has been highlighted in this research that, in order to counter the threat of Islamist extremism in Sri Lanka, there should be a mix approach of enemy-centric strategies and population centric strategic due to the volatile nature of center of gravity in Islamist extremism.

Keywords: *Islamist Extremism, Counter Violent Extremism (CVE), Enemy/Population Centric Approach, Reciprocal Radicalization, Cumulative Extremism*

Extremism as a Non-Traditional Security Threat: An Analysis on Sri Lanka Army Infantry Battalions' Military Preparedness to Combat Extremism

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Sri Lanka is not free from security threats though Sri Lankan military forces defeated the LTTE successfully in 2009. Military preparedness to combat 'extremism' remains to be studied largely. The outdated training and technologies which are presently used by Sri Lanka Army is questionable to face future regional non-traditional security threats like extremism. This necessity was highlighted during the Easter Sunday attack on 22nd April 2019 in Sri Lanka. It seems that training, theoretical and practical knowledge of Infantry soldier of Sri Lankan Army to face this new threat, are necessary to be evaluated and improved. Previous researches have primarily relied on military preparedness for facing traditional wars and extremism in the context of other countries. However, there are a few studies on extremism in a post-war country like Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the study comprises of three objectives. Firstly, it is expected to analyse on Sri Lanka Army infantry battalions' military preparedness to combat extremism. Secondly, it is expected to identify the areas which should be improved regarding the military preparedness. Thirdly, it aims to propose recommendations to the Sri Lanka Army infantry battalions to enhance their military preparedness. The objectives are to be reached by utilizing predominantly the qualitative strategy. Moreover, this study wishes to accompany mixed methods in order to obtain reliable results. Semi-structured interviews and structured self-administered questionnaire will be used for data collection. Sample comprises of 331 officers and convenience sampling strategy will be used to secure these responses from senior officers servicing in the Sri Lanka Army Infantry Regiments and battalions. This study would provide new insights to policy makers (Sri Lanka Army, Government of Sri Lanka and other stakeholders) to facilitate evidence-based policy decisions to improve the military preparedness to combat extremism.

Keywords: *Army Infantry Battalions, Extremism, Non-traditional Security Threats. Sri Lanka*

Metamorphosing Sri Lankan Old School Military Thoughts by Incorporating Artificial Intelligence to Face the New Normalities

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The ongoing wave of 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) marks the dawn of a new age for every aspect of our modern society, including the military. While the 4IR is set to disrupt our society, it also provides vast opportunities for militaries to sharpen their operational edge. The second generation military forces in Sri Lanka are highly regarded in the whole world as we were the first to win hybrid warfare. Yet Sri Lanka has not always leveraged technology as a key force multiplier. Beyond its generation transformation, the Sri Lanka Military forces must ride the wave of 4IR and exploit game changing technologies and concepts, such as Internet of Things (IoT), System of Systems (SoS), Augmented Reality (AR), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and 3D printing. To this end, the Sri Lankan Military Forces must also recognize the key challenges of adapting to this ongoing wave of 4IR. The Sri Lankan Military Forces must ensure that its organisational structure, processes, operating concepts, and workforce are best positioned to ride the wave of 4IR by keeping the Air Force at the leading edge.

Keywords: *Internet of Things (IoT), System of Systems (SoS), Augmented Reality (AR), Artificial Intelligence (AI), 3D printing, 4IR*

Emerging CBRNE Threat from Industrial and Medical Fields to the National Security of Sri Lanka

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Number of manufacturing industries and medical institutions in Sri Lanka are using variety of CBRNE agents that could cause severe damage if those agents are released to the environment due to behavioural patterns such as negligence, unawareness and lack of supervision. Inadequate care on CBRNE agents will cost lives and if the same agents are fallen in to wrong hands those could be used as Weapons of Mass Destruction. On the other hand, whether the government has adequately laid down the rules and regulations to protect the national security from the emerging threat is another area to be investigated. Therefore, a research gap has been identified in the area of CBRNE agents and their industrial usage as to whether the parties involved in CBRNE related production are caring about the national security aspect along with the revenue aspect to conduct a research.

Keywords: *CBRNE, WMD, National Security*

Food Security and its Impact on National Security of Sri Lanka

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Rice and curry is the home food of Sri Lanka which is distinguished Sri Lanka with a unique food culture in South Asia. The paddy cultivation in this regard being considered the most important food item in the country. It is found that low production of rice, crops and vegetable affect a lot for the economy of the country paving the way to the instability of the country. Food security of Sri Lanka is measured using affordability, accessibility, availability and utilizations. It is indicated in food balance sheet and inflation rate. According to the global food security index, Sri Lanka is continuously being affected due to various reasons such as climate change, political instability, land degradation and water scarcity. Food insecurity is directly associated with the prevalence of disease, malnutrition, riots, pickets and trade monopoly. As a result of economic, political and social instability of Sri Lanka, it directly influences the national security of the country. The research paper is focused on analyzing food security in Sri Lanka with regard to internal and external threats and its association with national security and existing policy plan that to maintain the food security in Sri Lanka.

Sample profile was analyzed using the demographic, educational as well as the professional information and the collected information was shown using graphical methods for the ease of recognition. Mixed method such as qualitative and quantitative data was analyzed with suitable statistical analysis methods using software package such as Microsoft excel.

Keywords: *Food Security, Human Security, National Security, National Policy*

Big Data Analytics: Best Practices from Singapore in the Context of Sri Lanka's Digital Defence Requirements

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The information age has resulted in massive amounts of data being shared online and data being created over multiple platforms including smart devices. Such amounts of data create big data that can be used to understand usage patterns and internet behaviour. Many companies and countries collate such information to provide a better service to its customers or to guard its citizens. It is especially important for governments to collate, utilize, and analyse such big data to protect its borders. Analysing the chatter on the cyber space can help avert terror attacks and safeguard citizens from unscrupulous people. Sri Lankan defence has traditionally left the cyber domain vulnerable although maintaining extremely efficient protection mechanisms for traditional boundaries. It has faced many cyber threats over the past few decades. Thus, it is imperative that the country invest heavily in technology and big data. Singapore has consistently proven itself to be capable of safeguarding its borders and economy through use of technology, and continues to innovate and invest in technology such as AI and big data. This paper provides a practical model for use by the Sri Lankan government based on best practices from Singapore that will help the island nation increase its security for its virtual borders. This will help it stave off security threats and economic threats.

Keywords: *Big Data, Cyber Terrorism, Data Sets*

External Compulsions that Fashioned Sri Lanka's Historical Mosaic

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The subject matter of this research spans from the earliest times since independence. The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines that History is often perceived as a mosaic of discrete occurrences. Sri Lanka's historical mosaic has evolved as a result of internal and external events that have taken place over the years. As an island, Sri Lanka's relationship with the global community in land and by sea domains has been particularly important in the evolution of Sri Lanka's historical narrative. On the other hand, a key turning points such as King Vijaya's arrival in Sri Lanka has mainly taken place due to Sri Lanka's close proximity to India. Therefore, the factor -strategic location and the close proximity to Indian sub-continent- played a significant role in shaping Sri Lanka's historical record. Historically Mahawamsa portrays Vijaya as the first king to establish civilized rule in Sri Lanka. Then rule of King Dewanampiyatissa stands out due to advent of Buddhism during his reign. These events took place due to the fact that India is separated only by a narrow strait. Sri Lanka has been invaded by South Indians at various times due to the same fact. It is almost the same as the French regularly invading England and vice versa. Invasions - whether for trade or for territory- have also changed the political, economic and social environment in Sri Lanka. Due to the favourable geographic location - being situated in the hub of sea lanes in Indian Ocean- later in 1505, the Portuguese landed in Sri Lanka purely by chance. Subsequently Dutch and the British followed the Portuguese. This paper is an attempt at interpreting Sri Lanka's major historical events through the lens of international relations.

Keywords: *Sri Lanka, International Relations, Proximity, Strategic Location*

The First War of Unification in Sri Lanka: Critical Analysis

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The war fought between King Duttagamini and King Elara in the 1st Century BC was commonly known as the first war of unification in Sri Lanka. Until then, the country has not been referred to by the historians as a single sovereign administrative unit. There were many power pockets operating from various parts of Sri Lanka. However, Mahavamsa -the chronical which was written a few centuries after the war of unification- attaches favorable prominence to the victory of Duttagamini against Elara. This historical episode has been interpreted by several historians for diverse objectives in the passage of Sri Lankan history. Moreover, this war of unification has been mis-construed by many as an ethnic conflict which escalated between the Sinhala and Tamil races. After a thorough perusal of facts and figures relating to this research, it is evident that this military offensive was solely prosecuted with the motive of unifying this island. The aim of this compilation is to justify the fact that this venture was to be treated as war of unification and not as an ethnic conflict while critically analyzing each stage of the Elara-Duttagamini war. This paper is compiled with employing secondary data. Books, research papers, journal articles and e-articles are used as secondary data.

Keywords— *Duttagamini, Elara, Unification*

Human Resource Functions of the Tank Culture in Sri Lanka

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The human resource which evolved with the functionalities of the ancient tank culture of Sri Lanka is the research focus of this paper. According to Mahawamsa, paddy cultivation was the lifeline of the Sri Lankan economy from the ancient past. The hydroculture of the island is a legacy that is attributed to the Aryans who migrated to the country from north India in the 6th Century B.C. The initial Aryan settlements took place in the dry zone in Sri Lanka which has low rainfall and therefore, the farmers needed considerable storage of water to support agriculture. Since the Aryans possessed the expertise of hydraulic engineering and tank building, they took steps to address the demand for water by erecting the tanks in almost every part of the dry zone. These tanks were not isolated projects. They were well placed in a holistic socio-economic system that resulted in the prosperity peace and security of the Island for many centuries. In this backdrop still tank culture is an integral component of the lives of Sri Lankan farmers. The functionalities affiliated to the tank culture was one of the top employment providers for the Sri Lankan rural peasant as well. The authors argue that some of the core practices in this context could even be useful in strengthening the modern-day human resource practices of other fields. The context is analyzed by employing concepts belonged to the theories of oriental despotism and human resource management. It is empirical research conducted by using primary and secondary data. The researchers have found how ancient human resource practices tally with modern-day practices.

Keywords: *Holistic Socio-economic system, Human Resource, Tank Culture*

The Drift of Ancient Kingdoms in the Post-Polonnaruwa Period: A Critical View of the Causes

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The Sinhalese monarchy has its origins in the settlement of North-Indian Aryan immigrants to the island of Sri Lanka. According to historical records, the first Sinhalese kingdom was established by King Vijaya in the valley of Malwathu-Mahaweli river in 6th Century B.C. It was subsequently unified as a state during the reign of King Duttagamini and thus, the Rajarata kingdoms became a power center of administration and continued for nearly fifteen decades. However, one can notice a gradual decline of the Sinhala Kingdom after the latter part of the thirteenth century, and the geographic drift of the center of power had also taken place over time. This study was aimed at analyzing the causes of the drift of the medieval ancient kingdoms, especially in the post-Polonnaruwa period. The researches argue that the rationality of the views produced by different authors on various causes could be questioned. The causes, found in various sources, such as climatic change, collapse of the old order, exhaustion and infertility of soil, the spread of malaria, foreign invasions, the collapse of the irrigation system, and the attractions offered by the Wet Zone as against the Dry Zones are examined in detail by the researchers to gauge what has happened in the past.

Keywords: *Rajarata Kingdom, Oriental Despotism, Invasions*

Economic Effects of War on a Country: An Overlook of Sri Lankan Economy During the Period of Civil War

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Sri Lanka is a country that faced a war for three decades. Both the extremists and armed forces faced major losses including thousands of lives. Expenses for recruiting and maintaining a large military and the purchase of technically advanced weapons is inevitable during war. Therefore, Sri Lankan governments had to spend money on providing supplies for the armed forces. Lack of security pushes back the tourists who hope to visit a country and this reduced the amount of revenue that should have been brought into the country by tourism. Rate of development of infrastructure underwent a considerable decline due to the situation in the country. Agriculture and livestock farming was affected and foreign investments were not brought into the country due to the uncertainty of the final product of war. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to study the effects that the civil war has had on Sri Lanka and show that not only Sri Lanka, but also any other country that goes through a war suffers similar economic consequences.

Keywords – War, Extremists, Development, Security

Corruption Circle of Sri Lanka: The Second Largest Enemy to the State

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A set of fundamental principles and core values are required to govern any state. However, the deep-seated causes and effects of corruption in a system kill people's satisfaction. Notwithstanding, the stagnation or half-measures of countering misappropriation and misuse of power can be considered as impediments to eliminate corruption. Corruption is disintegrative and the democracy is more likely to struggle for survival. The corruption level of Sri Lanka has become the second largest enemy to the state actually before, during and after the violent conflict. Consequently, it is evident that the viciousness of corruption circle victimises the state and people over the decades. Eventually, the principles and values become trivial due to disparities caused by dishonesty in the public sector. In this regard, the main objective of this paper is to come across the causes of corruption that make states less able. A holistic analysis has been used in this paper to analyse both primary and secondary data. To this end, this paper also shows the deep-rooted viciousness in the public sector.

Keywords: *Alienation, Corruption, Democracies*

Holistic Framework for Migrating Military Applications into Cloud Computing and Ensuring National Security and National Growth of Sri Lanka

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The golden rule and principle in today's digital world is 'right to gather information and right to distribute it in right time'. When it comes to military related operations whether security operations in own country or ongoing abroad theatre defence operations those entities need access to the systems in time and the data requested should be on hand in an accurate and comprehensive manner. Availability of mass data is growing day by day, networking with clusters via digital networks. Parallel to that technological advances in main areas such as cybersecurity, surveillance by satellites, remote electronic sensors, and drone technology are generating huge volumes of data which are needed by all main ongoing processes of a country, and these new data create challenges for human analysts who are struggling to keep pace. It is important to point out that most military activities that use cloud computing are real-time, automated to financial management, communications and planning. But cloud computing could be a new challenge and differentiator in accomplishing next-generation defence strategies. This technology will be easier, secure and cheaper than existing siloed systems. An improved advantage is being able to keep bound with the demands of modern defence operations since optimizing operations in defence and military related applications becomes a strategic necessity for defence agencies and authorities across the world. In this regard, a reliable holistic framework for migration will ensure mitigation of risks in cloud computing technology. This holistic framework designed by meta-synthesis method to improve the migration process a maturity model called 'Holistic Cloud Migration Framework for Armed Forces Sri Lanka' is introduced with 5 main categories combined with holistic attributes to add extra value and sustainability for the framework design.

Keywords: *Cloud Computing, Military Applications, Effectiveness, Holistic Approach*

National Security and Health: Communication in a Pandemic

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Countries deal with more than national security to safeguard its citizens. Health problems are a crucial part of the general wellbeing of the people. As the global pandemic of 2020 showed, the population's health is an important consideration. About 32 years ago, HIV was just rearing its head and was making its way to being a pandemic, which it is today. This paper poses five research questions. How did the world governments deal with it then? How do they deal with it now? What resources have they used to combat and educate? What is the correlation between the campaigns and the incidence or reduction of HIV? What messages could other pandemic communication campaigns take from the successes and failures of HIV communication? The paper analyses the media campaigns and media messages in the 15 years between 1990 and 2005. The different cultural connotations of each chosen country would be used as a backdrop to better inform the analysis. The primary objective of the research is to determine the practical value of these advertisement and messages in combating the pandemic. This qualitative research uses a constructivist approach, and uses secondary data from statistics, research reports, and newspaper articles. The analysis will be done using theories such as stages of change model and theory of reasoned action/planned behaviour.

Keywords: *HIV, Pandemic, Health Communication*

The Strategic Implications of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Central Asia

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The China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) position of Central Asia is in a crucial point and it is more vital as the hub of cross regional, long distance loops of trade, investment, and infrastructure development. In this research, the main objective is to find out the geopolitical nexus with Central Asia that induce China to persuade Heartland while examining the prevalence sources and mechanisms that China has used for reshaping Central Asia. Hence, China's new strategic game towards Central Asia is scrutinized by using Mackinder's Heartland theory and this new knowledge and ideas were generated and constructed by gathering qualitative secondary and primary data. The research reveals that China's influence in countries of the world-island of Heartland is becoming a trend in the recent years. By giving economic support, China tries to get patronage and loyalty from Central Asia and to challenge the maritime hegemony of the USA. In conclusion this research explores Chinese intentions in Central Asia under a specific set of conditions is likely to become the platform for a new great game. But the parameters for these conditions are unilaterally to emerge in the future. Hence China engages in a new great game as single unified land power through emerging Eurasia with railroads and transportation goods for being a unilateral power economically.

Keywords: *Heartland, Belt and Road Initiatives, Land Power, Geopolitics, Geopolitical Nexus*

POSTER PRESENTATIONS



Sri Lanka's Civil War: How to Defeat an Insurgency

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There were four political, economic and administrative reasons which could be cited as the main causes for the outbreak of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. In the months of May 2009, the Sri Lankan government forces completely destroyed the Tamil Tigers, who had waged an insurgency for thirty years. It has been the first time since the end of the Second World War that a large-scale indigenous insurgency had been defeated by military force. In an academic sense there were many other insurgencies which could draw parallels to Sri Lanka's conflict. A number of military and academic researchers have argued about what made the SLG so successful in defeating the insurgents. Defeating maritime capability made the organization unsustainable. Insurgents strategic miscalculation changes the tide of the conflict. The Sri Lankan Civil War was a unique case and the lessons that can be drawn from it have relatively narrow applicability to the study of insurgency and counterinsurgency operations. Despite the criticism of the age-old Clausewitz's theory by some scholars, the modern interpretation of his "trinity" has some correlation to the events that took place in Sri Lanka's civil war. The study is intended to be an objective military assessment and also a reference of what works on war and peace.

Keywords; *Insurgency, Counterinsurgency, Ethnic Conflict, Maritime Capability*

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