

Short Reviews of Recent Books

China in the Indian Ocean: One Ocean, Many Strategies. By Cdr MH Rajesh (Pentagon Press, New Delhi, 2018), pp. 347, Price Rs. 1495, ISBN 978-93-86618-36-8.

This book by Commander MH Rajesh provides an account of China's strategy and increasing footprints in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Spread over ten chapters, it is the result of his research at the United Service Institution of India.

After introduction, the book dwells on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the second chapter and explains its positing as a 'grand strategy' that seeks to fulfill the 'China Dream'. The third chapter narrates the evolution of modern Chinese maritime military strategy through a novel format of "Four roles and Three-and-a-half fleets". The fourth chapter labeled as "Strategy of Securing Sea Lanes" provides a brief background of disputes in the South China Sea and explains the award of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in October 2015. The fifth chapter provides an overview of the IOR with regard to flow of energy and trade, and the security scenario. There is an evaluation of the existing regional structures and their contribution to security. The author also provides the elements of the framework within which the formation of a future structure can be envisaged. The sixth chapter "Strategy of Nexus to Alliance" provides a detailed look at the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its strategic implications. The next chapter labeled as "Strategy of Maritime Nodes and Networks" provides details of Chinese activities in Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bangladesh with regard to political influence, investments and arms deals. This chapter also provides an overview of the commercial maritime network being built by China with regard to port ownership, shipping operations and shipbuilding. The eighth chapter, "Strategy of Access", lists the Chinese activities in Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. A major portion of this chapter is devoted to Myanmar. The ninth chapter, "Strategy of Resources" covers China's quest for resources in the IOR and covers activities in West Asia, Africa, Mauritius, Seychelles and Australia. A major portion of this chapter is devoted to China's options for transporting oil and gas, and the related economics. In the end, the author provides the conclusions of his study.

This book is an admirable attempt to connect the dots and provide discernible patterns to China's activities in the IOR. Starting

with a broad-brush concept of BRI as a 'grand strategy' and the evolution of Chinese maritime strategy, the book goes on to provide granular details of Chinese presence across the region. Written in an easy style, it straddles multiple disciplines of history, economics, energy, politics and military strategy to present its case. It is adequately illustrated with maps and has rich data in tabulated and pictorial form. Elaborate end notes, appendices and bibliography are provided to supplement the text. Overall, it is an excellent book for understanding China's activities in the IOR.

Commander S Sarangi

Pakistan's Tactical Nuclear Weapons Giving the devil more than his due? *Inderjit Panjra* (New Delhi, Vij Books India Pvt Ltd, 139pp, Rs 795/-, ISBN: 978-93-86457-60-8)

This is a well researched assessment about the possible impact of Pakistan's Tactical Nuclear Weapons (TNW) in our future confrontations. Ever since 1980 when the two nations became nuclear weapon (NW) states the politico-military dynamics underwent a change. Buoyed with its newfound NW status but without any sagacity, Pakistan went in for TNW terming it as a game changer and hoping to offset its asymmetrical disadvantage *vis-a-vis* India. Colonel Panjra attempts to answer the question by logically analysing and presenting a comprehensive analysis *ab initio* as it were. The Author begins by discussing the relevance of NW and the drivers of Indo-Pak conflict. One of the key elements in Pakistan's strategic culture mentioned by the Author is its false notion of 'pride in Muslim sovereignty'. Reasons for the immense restraint shown by India in dealing with a recalcitrant neighbour have been well brought out. Subsequently, the Author carries out a reality check on nuclear deterrence and efficacy of TNW per se. Pakistan's Hatf-9 (NASR) has a range of 60 km. The air launched/ submarine launched systems are mentioned albeit briefly. Though the Author highlights the technical difficulties of miniaturizing Plutonium based warhead, the bottom line is that Pakistan has tested all its sub-systems successfully. The sparse availability of Plutonium in Pakistan as well as the dilemma for policy makers for balancing its usage between strategic NW and TNW remains. The Author has discussed the damage template in some detail and he opines that 436 TNW will be required to halt the thrust of an armoured division. The dilemma for Pakistan would be when to

employ TNWs in case of a minor, medium level or a major penetration by Indian Battle Groups! In Chapter 4, five scenarios of confrontation, although somewhat unnecessarily dramatic in detail are discussed. Subsequently, the Author expands on India's response that can range from a massive strike, a graduated one or non-nuclear. Finally, in Chapter 5, the Author presents various options available to India to achieve peace and stability in the region which in the present context is more of a mirage. Colonel Panjra has examined the core issues surrounding Pakistan's TNW in depth and his rationale for conclusions are logical. The study is recommended for use in our schools of instruction with advantage.

Major General Ashok Joshi, VSM (Retd)

**RESULTS : LIEUTENANT GENERAL SL MENEZES
MEMORIAL ESSAY COMPETITION : 2018**

Subject : "India's Wars since Independence: Would we have performed better if we had a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)"

First	IC – 58813 F Col S Dinny Directing Staff DSSC, Wellington (Nilgiris) Tamil Nadu – 643 231 Email : dinny14@gmail.com	Cash Award of Rs.10,000/-, Certificate and entry accepted for publication.
Second	IC -59686 K Col Prashant Pant 61 Field Regiment Pin- 925761 C/o 99 APO Email:prashantpant14@gmail.com	Certificate

**RESULTS : USI GOLD MEDAL ESSAY
COMPETITION 2018**

GROUP 'A'

SUBJECT : "THE ONE BELT ONE ROAD (OBOR) / BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE (BRI) OF CHINA : SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA AND THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION (IPR) AND RESPONSE STRATEGIES".

First	Personal No. : 04584 T Capt T Sugreev, IN Locker No 83, Naval Wing, DSSC, Wellington, Nilgiris – 643 231 (Tamil Nadu) Email : sugreevt@yahoo.com	Gold Medal, Cash Award of Rs.15,000/- and entry accepted for publication.
Second	Personal No. : 52028 W Commander Apoorv Pathak IHQ MoD (Navy) / DASE 'A' Block Hutments, Dara Shukoh Road, New Delhi – 110 011 Email : marine.apoorv@gmail.com Mob No. : 94968 85635	Cash award of Rs.10,000/- and entry accepted for publication.

GROUP 'B'

SUBJECT : "INDIA – A NET PROVIDER OF SECURITY IN INDIAN OCEAN REGION (IOR) – A ROAD MAP".

First	IC – 67907 A Maj SK Misra AMS – 2 C, MS Branch IHQ of MoD (Army) DHQ PO New Delhi – 110 011 Email:saurabhmisra26@gmail.com Mob No : 99583 64437	Gold Medal, Cash Award of Rs.15,000/- and entry accepted for publication.
Second	IC – 69587 P Lt Col Dhiraj Kumar 203 Engr Regt (Attending DSSC – 74 Course) Qtr No 17 / 1, Wellington Hall, DSSC, Wellington, Nilgiris–643231 (Tamil Nadu) Email : nipadhiraj09@gmail.com	Cash award of Rs.10,000/- and entry accepted for publication.