Emerging Trends of Artificial Intelligence in South Asia and its Implications for Pakistan

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Abstract
Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a breakthrough technology which is astonishingly impressive. Major world powers are rapidly integrating AI in their military doctrines. This trend of militarization of AI can be seen in the South Asian region as well. Following the theoretical approach of offensive realism, China and India are in full swing to revolutionize their militaries with this emerging trend in order to accumulate maximum power and to satisfy their various interests. Consequently, Indian military modernization has the potential to provoke Pakistan to take counter measures. Pakistan is already encountering a number of challenges in economic sector and will face the strenuous task of accommodating a handsome financial share for the development of its AI capabilities. South Asia is a very turbulent region characterized by arch rivals who are also nuclear powers and have repeatedly indulged in various crises over the years. Introduction of AI in South Asia will have significant repercussions as it will trigger an arms race and at the same time disturb the strategic balance in the region.

Keywords
Artificial Intelligence (AI), offensive realism, South Asia, Pakistan, India, Militarization of AI

Introduction
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is in its full swing to advance and influence different arenas of human life in present times. The twenty first century is marked with a profound and unprecedented elevation in this sphere. It is incredibly difficult to comprehensively define AI due to its broad structure. In its simplest sense AI can be defined as; the programming of machines in such a manner that their cognition and responsive capabilities match that of a human being while taking the aid of a tremendous amount of data.

The turning point in the field of AI was 2016 when Lee Seodal, a professional Go player of 9 Dan rank lost the game of Go from a computer program developed by Google i.e. Alpha Go. Taking into account that Go is a very complicated and deceptive game and prodigious amount of intelligence is required to win it, this match was one of the major breakthroughs in the field of Artificial Intelligence. The potential of AI was unleashed as a result of this match and endeavors towards this emerging technology eventually picked up pace. AI is a dual use technology and the world has already witnessed the fruits of AI in the commercial sector. This technology is swiftly

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expanding into the military domain. This is driven by the enthralling efficiency of autonomous weapons encompassing immense accuracy and a very minute response time. Considering the rapid rise and its influence in various spheres, a new wave has begun to aid the military sector with AI. United States retained dominance in the area of AI due to its technological edge over all other States which resulted in security dilemma for other countries. Russia's Chief of General Staff, General Valery Gerasimov, also predicted "a future battlefield populated with learning machines." Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu put a finer point on it, calling for civilian and military designers to join forces to develop AI technologies to "counter possible threats in the field of technological and economic security of Russia." Recently, China has accelerated its ambitions and endeavors in order to modernize its military to a new level in order to break the existing status quo and take the lead. China has now started to employ AI into its military. Consequently, Chinese advancement will have repercussion on the regional as well as at international level. Given the fact that the Chinese advancement in military domain is never overlooked by India at any time shall lead to a never ending strategic chain reaction. This has created a situation in which India has re-calculated its military doctrine and has decided to integrate AI in order to consolidate the military sector.

The aforesaid upgradation of Indian military doctrine evidently reflects in its recently released Land Warfare Doctrine (LWD) 2018[2]. This raises serious concerns for Pakistan as well as it cannot simply ignore this approaching threat. India's belligerent and aggressive policies have always been concerning for Pakistan. The strategic chain reaction has the potency to travel from US, China, and India only to eventually reach and influence Pakistan sooner or later. This research paper is an attempt to analyze the impetus and the repercussions of the race of AI in South Asia in general and Pakistan in particular.

Rational Behind Militarization of AI

AI is a revolutionary technology with respect to the defense sector. It brings along strong level of autonomy in warfare. In order to gain comparative advantage with respect to adversary, states have opted to incorporate AI into the military sector. The accelerated approach towards militarization of AI by a number of states has sprouted due to the reason that it steers along an unparalleled amount of efficiency with it. It surpasses human intelligence by manifold which consequently leads to enhanced sophistication and the minimization of errors. Ergo, it is seen as a tool by the major powers to steer the balance of power in their favor. The first section of the paper is focused into analyzing the reasons which drive China and India to militarize AI.

China lags behind US in terms of military by a colossal gap. US spends approximately 600 billion dollars on its defense while China spends around 250 billion dollars. Hence, for China to bring parity with US is an arduous task. However, China acknowledges the fact that by making advancements in AI within the military sector, it can mitigate this gap between the US and itself. The reason lies in the notion that once the military sector is accompanied with AI, it makes progress by leaps and bounds (Matt Field, 2019).Moreover, this progress is coupled with a high level of accuracy, surprise and efficiency. An engaging aspect of AI is that it erodes the pertinence of the previous

[2] Army Doctrine Publications by the Indian armed forces pointing out the contemporary challenges faced by the armed forces and measures to overcome them.

weaponry. For example, an aircraft carrier is contemplated as an emblem of military ascendency but AI-backed missiles, jets and submarines can eventually sink the carrier.

Thereby, the carrier itself becomes a vulnerable floating target of AI. Hence, instead of building more tanks, aircraft carriers, and augmenting the quantity of such weapons, China is playing smartly and investing more in AI to increase the level of sophistication of its military to deal with its competitor, US (Allen, 2019).It is not proceeding towards leveling the stockpiles of nuclear weapons made three decades ago, rather it is going for the latest technology which will offer a much more credible deterrence such as supersonic missiles, hypersonic missiles and autonomous submarines etc.

Moreover, in recent times US has also started to accumulate AI into the military sector. As a result, the efforts increased to a large extent in order to keep up with the US and forestall US aims to widen the gap between the US and China in military terms. US has also been advancing with 'Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)'[3] more generally known as Killer robots, which can be defined as systems that can impose an act of deadly use of force in land, air or underwater, without any human intervention i.e. they are completely autonomous. They have the capability and competence to detect and discern the target themselves and attack simultaneously. US has been a strong proponent of killer robots and has been an obstacle in passing a U.N resolution which poses a ban on these weapons. (Gayle, 2019).Despite the dangers posed by such weapons, US continues to reinforce their usage and continues to divert its resources to excel in making of such weapons. In view of all these developments, China started to invest heavily in the military sector in order to avoid lagging behind the US Hence, it has to catch up and outdo the US military simultaneously and therefore it is advancing and consolidating its AI driven military arena at a rapid pace (Wood, 2016).

Technological ascendency has been retained by US for a long time. In the wake of novel challenges that might infringe the status quo, US has deployed an 'Offset Strategy'[4] to flip the balance into its favor with respect to military technology. US had previously incorporated AI in weapons such as drones. However, drones involve a limited level of AI due to the reason that the main control center is handled by a human being. In the contemporary times, US has pursued to consolidate its military sector with completely autonomous weapons .In 2014, the Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel formulated a scheme to initiate a 'Third Offset Strategy' which aimed to intensify the level of AI in the current military technology. The rationale behind this was to sustain the U.S leverage in military in the face of current threats from potential rivals such as China and Russia who are in full swing to modernize their respective militaries (Jesse Ellman, 2017).The Third Offset Strategy consists of an amalgamation of technology with military operations in order to aid the conventional deterrence. (Lange, 2016). Moreover, it also includes cyber defense, electronic warfare and surveillance of social media. The overall purpose of the strategy is to sustain a credible deterrence for future. Hence, China seeks AI to counter this Third Offset Strategy and eliminate any obstruction in its way to military supremacy.

Moreover, China has overlying claims of sovereignty in the South China Sea with a number of states such as Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan. The importance of South China Sea for China is a secret to none. With the surging

[3] Autonomous robots programmed to tackle their target without any human assistance.

[4] A competitive strategy that seeks to attain leverage over a potential adversary through technological advancement.

involvement of US and its allies in the contested waters, China suspects that tensions might soar in the coming times, therefore AI can aid China in maintaining its leverage over the South China Sea. For example, maritime drones and submarines could prove crucial roles in playing monitoring roles (Hall, 2018).This will consolidate strong deterrence and force other parties to re-evaluate their strategies and thereby U.S and its allies will eschew from unnecessary mobilization in the South China Sea. Moreover, a deep sea base is being developed by Chinese military and it could be used to track and examine the movements of foreign ships and it would be equipped with the capacity to execute operations against rivals ships, air-craft carriers etc. (Zhen, 2019). This shall play a great role in the detection of US submarines in the region and consequently undermine the comparative naval advantage that the US enjoys at the moment. More importantly, apart from the surveillance operations, China has planned to keep a nuclear arsenal in the deep sea base which will increase the nuclear deterrent capacity of China to a great extent.

There have been repeated comparisons between China and the Soviet Union, drawing parallels of how both of them have used technological innovations to conquer their desires of hegemony. However, there are stark dissimilarities between both the cases. Soviet Union used to play with that technology which it acquired from the west through illegal means. China on the other hand has well established industries and does not lean on foreign countries for support (Allen, 2019). In the initial stage they might seek help from the western technology but only to imitate it and come up with something even better. Thus it is the domestic support from Chinese companies such as Tancent, Alibaba and Baidu which makes Chinese endeavors towards AI sustainable.

The source of AI is usually the private sector comprising of different companies. As a result, for AI to advance in the military arena, there needs to be a strong cooperation between the government and the private sector. In China, the private companies do not have the privilege of not cooperating with the government. Therefore, the private sector conforms to the demands of the government readily. Hence, this is one of the reason that China is revolutionizing its military at a fast pace, as there is a very apt environment contrary to other countries such as the US which has to endure certain obstacles in order to sway the private sector to cooperate with the government on issues of militarization of AI; given the fact that private companies often turn down the governments demands to help them in weaponization of Artificial Intelligence.

Paving way towards global hegemony calls for a robust military, strong economy and power projection. The Chinese economy is already proceeding towards a steady rise. By 2035, the economy is envisaged to amplify by leaps and bounds. Economically, it might be ahead of the US in the next three to five years (Champion, 2018). By coupling the economic growth with the military advancement, China wants to see itself as the subsequent global hegemon. Therefore in order to qualify all the characteristics of a global hegemon, it is looking forward to consolidate its military sector to the next level and ultimately surpassing all other states and particularly the US.

India's Quest for Artificial Intelligence

The Indian Land Warfare Doctrine, issued in December, 2018 places extensive emphasis on integrating AI in the armed forces. The development of autonomous

weapons by the Department of Defense and Research (DRDO)[5] commenced in the preceding years. However, due to the evolving developments in the region, India has accelerated its endeavors towards modernization of its military. China, the immediate neighbor of India has made stupendous progress in AI. India who anticipates China as a threat due to the historical experiences and the China-Pakistan nexus, is now in full swings to utilize AI in the military sector to consolidate it (Kaur, 2018).

China has made a significant breakthroughs in AI and is outdoing other states. For example, China is investing heavily on underwater drones, unmanned aerial vehicles and autonomous drones such as the Blowfish 2 drone[6] which can be armed with AK-47 (Awford, 2019). Furthermore, in 2018, China has engaged to work on the autonomous submarines which will be far better at identifying targets then the current submarines, which will not need refueling for years and could easily perform without being detected (Prosser, 2018). In this view, the Indian Army Chief, Bipin Rawat has repeatedly accentuated the point that the armed forces should employ AI to attend to threats in various arenas. Bipin Rawat pointed out that "since our adversaries are revolutionizing the scope of their defense capacities, it is better that we catch up with them before it is too late." Taking this notion into account, efforts have been brought into play to bring reforms in the Indian armed forces.

India has made tremendous amount of progress in its space program. However, India sees that since China has the capability to destroy its satellites India should establish credible defense systems synchronized with AI in order to resist any hostile attempt by China (Reddy, 2016). India is triggering an unnecessary and expensive arms race in the region without considering its consequences. Its rapid military modernization without having any direct threat from China is only endangering the security of the entire South Asian region. Chinese developments are not intended to be used against India. However, India in its quest for regional hegemony, has historically made uncompromising efforts to alter the status quo without considering its long term implications.

Despite the fact that India frames China as the main impetus to militarize AI, the underlying ambitions are directed towards Pakistan as well. Relations between India and Pakistan have always been fraught. Even though both of these countries now possess nuclear weapons, the importance of conventional weapons is not irrelevant, rather it remains even more pertinent due to the minor skirmishes that both countries experience. India could resort to AI to gain leverage over Pakistan by using autonomous weapons in the conflicts that both states get involved into, taking advantage of the fact that conventional weaponry cannot outdo autonomous weapons Moreover, India could mitigate the shortcomings that it has to deal with given its current weaponry. For instance when Pakistan retaliated after the Balakot fiasco, as Wing Commander Abhi Nandan[7] was approaching the Line of Control, he was directed by the air control center to escort the plane backwards. However, the reason that he was unable to comply with this instruction was for the reason that he could not pick up the message due to the copious jammers in the adjacent territory. On the other hand, artificial intelligence remains void of such technical glitches and could be more productive. In addition to the aforesaid, the integration of AI will also ease the process of conducting cyber-attacks on Pakistan with great deception. Likewise, heavy surveillance can also be

[5] An Indian agency, established in 1958 with headquarter in New Delhi. It is charged with the task of conducting research and development for the Indian armed forces.

[6] An unmanned stealth drone capable of being equipped with weapons.

[7] The pilot who was taken in Pakistan's custody after his plane was shot by the Pakistan air force following the air encounter between India and Pakistan on 27th February 2019.

executed since autonomous drones can monitor around more than 250 kilometers into enemy's territory. This will result in various espionage activities. In addition, taking into consideration the economic conditions of Pakistan, India finds AI instrumental in order to further broaden the gap in the conventional warfare with Pakistan and at the same time impose an expensive arms race in the region generally and with Pakistan in particular. The Indian government exaggerates the threat from Pakistan in order to achieve their own political interests. Hence, this technological revolution will be sellable to the public to associate an anti-Pakistan narrative with themselves and enjoy a leverage in the upcoming elections.

One area where India might imitate the Chinese form of governance is the surveillance on its citizens especially in the Indian-Occupied Kashmir (IOK). The atrocities that are committed by the Indian armed forces such as killing and blinding the innocent citizens have generated a huge resentment amongst the people of Kashmir, who have consequentially galvanized their freedom struggles. In order to keep a check on their activities, India might opt for severe artificial intelligence-backed surveillance to suppress their movement for freedom. Moreover, in future instead of sending military men, autonomous weapons might be utilized to curtail the Kashmiri endeavor towards freedom. Another reason that India has emphasized to employ AI in the defense sector is that it can take huge advantage in the border surveillance. India, being surrounded by neighbors with whom it does not share a good history with, often experiences skirmishes along its border. In order to have a presence at the borders without the heavy deployment of army personnel, night vision devices are being deployed at the LOC to detect any movement by the opposite side and to warn the Indian soldiers of any suspicious activity (Bhatia, 2019). As a result, India would save sending a large number of soldiers in complex and complicated terrains and it has the potential to prove better than the routine patrolling.

Likewise, surveillance method can be applied to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as well, the line separating Chinese controlled and Indian controlled region of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, China has extended its claim over Utter Pradesh since 2000 (Bachhawat, 2013). Hence India wants to maintain the presence of heavy military and eventually AI seems to be a good option. Moreover, incidents like the Doklam crisis[8] have provoked India step up the means of surveillance at the borders.

The US, Russia and China are investing heavily in AI. China and India envision each other as key regional players. In order to build up the image of the major power, India is now resorting to artificial intelligence. Particularly, in the view of the armed forces who propagate the narrative that if India does not initiate employing artificial intelligence in near times, there will exist a prodigious gap between itself and its adversaries in the region which would be burdensome to narrow down and would impede India from attaining a prime role in the world affairs. Furthermore, despite the fact that China is rising, there wouldn't be a "Unipolar Moment", rather a multipolar world will emerge and India wants to be part of that. Therefore to portray itself as one of the major powers in the world, it has inclined towards the militarization of artificial intelligence.

[8] A military encounter between the Chinese and Indian armed forces in 2017.The source of the conflict was the Chinese construction of a road in Doklam, a disputed area between China and Bhutan. India entered the conflict on 18th June 2017 in the protest of the construction. This incident greatly strained the relations of both of the countries.

The domestic technological advancement of India further facilitates a favorable environment for the militarization of artificial intelligence. India has a strong backbone in the information technology and has a vast number of experts in artificial intelligence. In addition, private companies are also willing to help the armed forces to incorporate AI into the defense sector. N. Chandrasekaran, the owner of Tata Sons has demonstrated readiness to facilitate the armed forces with the modernization which reflects on India's seriousness to engage with the rising influence and utility of artificial intelligence.

The Indian government announced in 2018 that the efforts towards the merger of defense capabilities with AI are already on the go and soon it will be precipitated in the form of advanced autonomous weapons. The department working on advancing the AI is known as Center for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) which was established by Defense Research and Development Organization. Multi Agent Robotic Framework (MARF) is in the development stages which would act like a team of soldiers and would assist the Indian Army (Une, 2018). Rustom II, an unmanned aerial vehicle was claimed successful on February 2018 (Ray, 2018). This drone has the ability to carry on surveillance to a distance of 250 km. The Indian armed forces also possess 200 of DAKSH Robots. These robots are autonomous in nature and are capable of diffusing bombs in dangerous locations in addition to overcoming complicated terrains (Une, 2018). Muntra, the first unmanned tank was launched in Chennai Labs in 2017. There are different variations of Muntra such as Muntra S, Muntra N and Muntra M for surveillance, to operate in areas where the nuclear risk is high and to detect mines respectively (Cholan, 2017). Hence, this chase towards military modernization is swiftly picking ground and the endeavors will accelerate in the coming future.

Implications for Pakistan

Pakistan and India are facing number of challenges which are affecting their bilateral relations as well as regional dynamics, both directly and indirectly. Constant threat of war between the two archrivals has proved detrimental to regional peace and security. In view of all this, India's rapid military modernization is further fueling the arms race and insecurity in the region as well as internationally. India is also receiving military and technological assistance from the US under various agreements which will have serious implications in near future. US under its Pivot to Asia or Rebalancing Asia doctrine is only focusing on China and is trying to arm India against it however, it is ignoring the serious implications that this may have in near future.

Emerging trends of AI in South Asia cannot be overlooked by Pakistan. The prospects that India will incorporate the AI technology in the military sector is no more a secret as stated in Land Warfare Doctrine 2018. This will not go without Pakistan re-evaluating its stature in the spectrum of AI. Recently, in the wake of Balakot strikes, the Indian leadership has signaled its war hysteria. Hence the strategic patterns will undergo a dramatic shift in the coming times. Considering the current state of Pakistan, it can be stated that it is lagging behind in the race of AI by an astounding margin. Pakistan has made some progress in the technological sector but it is still far behind other states. There are various reasons behind this incapacity in the race of artificial intelligence, such as lack of resources, data, IT experts and the curriculum being taught in Pakistan which lacks the amount of mathematics required in artificial intelligence.

Consequently, even less advances are being implemented in the military area. The efforts in armed forces rely on Pakistan continues to rely on increasing the amount

of conventional weapons that it has. Secondly, Pakistan continues to strengthen its nuclear deterrence on the basis of minimum credible deterrence through the qualitative improvement in its arsenals. Henceforth, it is focusing less on artificial intelligence as a major component of its military strategy. Pakistan will have to face the consequences of Indian advancement at two levels i.e. economic and strategic. In 1998, both India and Pakistan became nuclear powers. The attainment of nuclear weapons paved a way to deter the arch rivals against each other. This led to the materialization of deterrence stability in the South Asian region. Deterrence stability is based on a two-pronged agenda i.e. circumventing the war in the first place and attaining escalation control in case a crisis transpires. The deterrence stability has averted the break out of a full fledge war between both of the states. However, if India expedites with its AI ambitions, it might badly damage the deterrence stability which currently exists in South Asia. This is so because this added capacity does not correspond to the added deterrence rather it has a negative impact leading to suspicions and ultimately proceeding towards a stage where both sides indulge in an inevitable arms race. The damage inflicted upon the deterrence stability would provoke counter measures by the Pakistani side which will galvanize full efforts to step up with AI. For instance, since India is advancing towards the development of autonomous aerial weapons, Pakistan would most likely follow suit. Consequently, India would go towards the development of defense system from such attacks which would result in Pakistan repeating the same pattern.

Moreover, the prospects of the amalgamation of nuclear weapons with AI is already on the table. A nuclear-powered torpedo is being developed by Russia which would be able to maneuver all kinds of defenses on its way to the target (GROLL, 2018). The chances run high that similar patterns might reflect in South Asia. Pakistan and India have a history of indulging in minor conflicts repeatedly. So far, nuclear deterrence has proved to be a credible instrument in preventing the eruption of a full fledge war. If India develops AI capabilities in the military sector, then chances of early escalation are going to soar as even a minor incident could evoke a robust response from the autonomous weapons. For example, autonomous aircrafts have an absolute control in deciding which areas to target and how deep to penetrate into the enemy's territory. Apart from the legal issues protruding in this scenario, threats to the command and control strategy are concerning and serious. Thereby, these new technologies can result in crisis that might be strenuous to deal with. Hence, Pakistan will also proceed towards military modernization in order to avert being prone to Indian attacks.

AI is quite an expansive realm and it requires prodigious resources. This is due to the protracted amount of processing time on Graphic Processing Unit (GPU)[9]. In order to understand the nature of its expensiveness, consider a student working on a thesis project related to artificial intelligence. The testing process of that project requires 5000 Euros. Hence, it is a costly business. Taking into consideration the economy of Pakistan, the current state does not present a stable situation and is expected to decline further in the days that follow. The defense budget for the year 2018-2019 is Rupees 1.1 Trillion which is 3.2% of the GDP. Moreover, the defense budget has seen an increase of 18% with respect to the last year. Apart from this, there are other spending which are excluding this figure. (Syed, 2018).

In the light of the approaching threat, Pakistan will have to stretch its defense budget even further. Consequently, resources will have to be diverted towards an arms race that is being initiated by India. The Indian armed forces have not disclosed how

[9] An electronic circuit which is designed to alter memory to speed up the creation of images in a frame buffer intended for output to a display device.

far they will go with the modernization of its military and how much capital they are going to spend on it. This further widens the ambiguity with respect to the extent that Pakistan will need to proceed on with artificial intelligence in order to reap in credible deterrence. In such circumstances Pakistan will have to divert resources for artificial intelligence which will hurt the economy of Pakistan. The arms race will have an impairing effect on the economy of Pakistan as revolutions in militaries come at high cost. Hence, the capital that could be used for the welfare of the common man would have to be spent to revolutionize the military in the wake of this race that India is instigating.

Lastly, Artificial Intelligence is sustainable only when it is homegrown. On the other hand, when it has to be outsourced through another country, the expenses become mounting. This is the reason that the arms race in AI if initiated, will be an expensive as well as a never-ending one as there would be repeated efforts by both sides to advance their weaponry one after the other. However, one cannot ignore the fact that despite its menacing nature, AI is going to be a pertinent issue in South Asia in the next decade. Taking this fact into consideration, Pakistan should reinvigorate its endeavors towards AI through the development of research centers in different universities and institutions solely devoted to the field. Moreover, universities should revise their curriculum to cope up with AI in order to produce AI experts who can help the armed forces of Pakistan avert any threat to national security. Despite the fact that it is a lengthy process, it is the only way that will lead to sustainable integration of AI with less onerous repercussions on the economy.

Conclusion

The major powers of the world are proceeding on the aisle towards AI. A new wave of technology revolution can be seen impending in a swift manner. The time when this revolution would diffuse to other states as well is not far away. However these patterns of militarization of AI if replicated in South Asia might not be a rational choice as the region is already turbulent with the presence of two arch-rivals whose histories are filled with bloody wars and episodic conflicts. Tensions soar high between both of these countries repeatedly which have led to their engagement in minor skirmishes. However, leadership from both sides do realize that none of the countries can afford a full fledge war. In this view, in cases where conflicts reach climax, immediate efforts towards de-escalation are observed to avoid any major damage to the national security of both countries. For example, in the Kargil incident[10], once the situation turned critical, the US stepped in to pacify the situation. However, it must be noted that weaponry triggered on the basis of AI is devoid of any such margin for the de-escalation phase.

With the institution of AI capabilities in military strategies, the dimensions of crisis management would be altered. The reason for this is that the time required for AI-backed weapons is so minute that it does not allow adequate margin for appropriate decision making. The response from these autonomous weapons would undermine the rational decision making which tends to calm things down in the period of elevated tensions. This comes with a high cost of escalation that might erupt into a critical incident and might prove difficult to control.

The strategic potential of this new evolution is being undermined by India. Militarizing AI by countries like China and the US does not pose a threat to the international security just as the nuclear arsenals of France and Britain are not a matter

[10] A limited armed conflict between India and Pakistan which took place between 3rd May To 26th July 1999.

of great concern for the international community. However, if India and Pakistan are considered, then the nature of the bilateral relationship, leadership, and the internal instabilities do not create the space for both countries to carry out an adventurous journey on such a dangerous pathway. Similarly, this region is characterized by nuclear power states. Given the lethal capacity of nuclear weapons, militarizing AI should be the last resort as it would complicate the strategic stability in the region and could lead to inadvertent usage which could account for an apocalyptic episode with the spin-off lasting for decades.

Indian Prime Minister Modi has initiated a round of adventures to boast up his political stature and associate an anti-Pakistan narrative with himself, which he has used to attract his voters. The revolution of the military was announced few months before the Indian elections 2019, hence it can be analyzed that this was more of a political gesture then a military one. This revolution has come at a time when India was not facing any obvious threat. However, the war-hysteria of its leadership has added to the risk to regional stability. This will initiate another arms race in the region and both countries will have to spend massive amount of resources in order to play with this. Hence, efforts should be made to curb this treat instead of intensifying it. On the other hand, since India is driving this technology into South Asia, Pakistani government should assist the academic sector in order to make advances in AI and at the same time should finance AI related startup projects which can later on provide a base for the military modernization. The rationale behind this is to assure that deterrence remains fortified despite Indian efforts to fracture it.

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