The object of this study is to make an assessment of regional, organisations as an instrument of peace. Bi-polarity, stemming out of Big-Power rivalry, a predominant feature of world politics after the Second World War, set these regional organisations in rival groups—the non-communist and the Communist—and packed with nuclear weapons they not only served as "instruments of competition in the Cold War" but also increased the probability of inevitable nuclear war. Owing to convulsive forces of these regional organisations (excluding those of non-aligned group) the avowed purpose of establishing peace has been frustrated and peace is in peril.

In making this study we have divided our discussion in several chapters. In the First Chapter we have discussed the Concept and Meaning of Regionalism and have made some conceptual discussion. We have also shown that regions are not distinguishable and they lack any acceptable criteria.

In the Second Chapter, after tracing in brief the advent of regionalism under the League, we have discussed the views of the regionalists, at the San Francisco conference, 1945, who were responsible for welding the regional to the universal principle. This paved the way for growth of large number of regional organisations.

We have divided the regional organisations into three
broad classifications — the non Communist, the Communist and
the non-committed — as they set themselves in mid-1974. These
are dealt with in Chapters III to VI; Regionalism in Operation.
The NATO and SEATO, two important organisations of the non-
Communist world, are dealt with in Chapters III and IV, and the
Warsaw Pact of the Communist world in Chapter V. The Arab League
and the OAU of the non-aligned group are discussed in Chapter VI
and we have shown, that contrary to the first two groups, the
third group (non-committed) has tried to maintain the spirit of
regionalism embodied in the U.N. Charter.

In Chapter VII we have seen that regional organisations
of the Communist or non-Communist group have failed in their vital
task of maintaining international peace. We have selected four
case studies to show that these regional organisations had no
conducive effect in resolving crisis situations.

In the last Chapter in making an evaluation we have
pointed out the evil consequences of regionalism and drawbacks
of regional approach to peace. We have also made some suggestions
on the future role of these organisations in the context of
strengthening the United Nations principles.

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