I recollect the statement of Sir Alfred Zimmern, made in 1935, than holder of the Oxford chair, that International relations should not be a separate subject at all. It was "a point of view" as he put it, "a way of looking at things". Instead of attempting to develop a discipline the effort should be made to try to assimilate in the study of international relations practically every thing that was relevant to international matters. Sociology, political Science and History as well as Philosophy, Mathematics to Engineering; strategic studies began to take the place of the study of international institutions with collapse of the league system, these perspectives and emphases were pushed into the background and an analysis of power politics took the central stage. E.H. Carr (1), Hans J. Morgenthau and Kenneth W. Thompson suggested that the core of international relations is international politics and...... the subject matter of international politics is struggle for power among nations. The theory was backed by Nicholas J Spykman, Reinhold Niebuhr, Hans J. Morgenthau and Frederick L. Schuman.

The South Asian countries are now faced both by challenges and opportunities and, consequently, their attitude is not surprising. Speaking about Cold War Dr. Majeed said,

"The end of the global cold war has resulted in a fluidity in South Asian relations and regional adversaries are trying for areas of convergence. There was a time when, except India and Vietnam, the Soviets had no friends in Asia. Now, we have no Soviets, as our friends to fall back to. But with the end of deideologisation of international relations, the Russians are not seen as adversaries, or even a threat, by any one in Asia. If the regional security in South Asia is to be based on multi-lateral de-escalation of military confrontation than the collective security has to envisage full participation by extra-regional actors of the multipolar world".1

There have been five powers effecting the events in South Asia: India, Pakistan, China, U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. with the total transformation of the U.S.S.R., there would be effect of a different type now. Communism had to far prouded a Secular Ideology to countries of South Asia and decline now resulting in proliferation of ethnic and religious revivalism in many parts of South Asia.

In the recent past we have been witnessing an uncred-ible rush of events driven by the transformations of the international political landscape following the end of the Cold War. Just two years ago we saw the emergence of the commonwealth of independent states from the rubble of the former Soviet Union. The disintegration of Yougoslovina, Unification of Germany and Korea brought significant changes in the parameters of the South Asia strategy. In various part of Europe, Africa and elsewhere, political and economic change appears to be gaining momentum, utmost on a daily basis looking at the dramatic events that have swept over the European continent since 1989, one can not but, be struck by the apparent time - lag between Europe and South Asia in the pace of change.

On September 27, 1991, President Bush announced that he quite justifiably called "a series of sweeping initiations effecting every aspect of our nuclear powers". These were unilateral actions to eliminate or to remove nuclear weapons from their existing deployment patterns and to lower the nuclear alert posture. President Bush pointedly called on the Soviet Union to take comparable measures. He said "if we and the Soviet leaders take the right steps some on our own, some on their own, some together, we can dramatically shrink the arsenal of the world's nuclear weapons. India continues its opposition to the NPT and to regional agree-ments to control or eliminate nuclear weapons and both countries seem to devote much attention to the development
of their military potentials. Indo-Pak agreement signed in January, 1991 by which both sides pledged not to strike each others nuclear installations, was the first positive development on the sub-continent after their 1972 accord calling for the gradual normalization of relations. In January 1992, India and Pakistan exchanged lists of nuclear facilities under the agreement. These events have a direct bearing upon the strategy of South Asia.

Strategic policy presupposes certain interests and objectives. The importance of South Asia to American strategic concurrence is mainly derivative. US viewed its military concerns in South Asia as an important element of its containment strategy directed against the perceived threat to the region from the people's Republic of China. US intervened directly in South Asia on the side of India during the Sino-Indian border dispute. China have its own policy and is increasing psychological pressure and assisting Himalayan Kingdoms, Sri Lanka and Pakistan to counterweight India.

Asia is in the process of emerging into modern era and establishing new pattern of relationship with rest of the world. Asia will play a more active role in world politics, a role more commensurate with its size, its population and its might. Robert Payne rightly observed,

"The major task of our generation is the understanding of Asia for Asia represents potentially the mastery of the world in manpower and resources". 1

The nationalism is the pulse of a nation. The past weighs heavily upon the Asian, present nationalism, observed Paul M.A. Linebarger,

"Asian Nationalism involves, the application to a variety of non-European culture of

political concepts not indigenous to those cultures through Asian nationalism functions in the modern world, it is derived from an identification on the part of Asians themselves with 'Asian' projected to Asia by Europeans, whether in person or through mass communications, and by the further mimesis on the part of Asians of the European Concept 'nationalism'. The Asian nationalism... is an entirely valid response to massive western emotional and spiritual demands.1

The acronym SAARC was adopted only after the first summit of heads of state and governments held in Dhaka on 7-8 December, 1985. Speaking about the importance of SAARC, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, King of Bhutan reiterated that,

"In the geo-political realities of our region, it would be un-realistic to ignore the primary of the political factor, as, in the final analysis, it would be political environment of the region which will determine the shape and scope of the regional cooperation in South Asia".

Indian ruling elite have planned foreign policy of the country with clear cut objectives, viz, national security, friendship with neighbours, development and world peace. India continues its opposition to the NPT and to regional agreement to control or eliminate nuclear weapons. India and Pakistan seem to devote much attention to the development of their military potentials. It seems that both India and Pakistan recognise the futility of nuclear proliferation in the region and the dangerous implications of a nuclear arms race for their economies. The economic cost of remaining in the nuclear club is rising steeply and thoughtful people in both countries have began to consider the Soviet Union's obsession with Security and power led it along the path of dangerous neglect of economic, social and political priorities thereby hastening its disintegration.

With the rupture of the bipolar system and the emergence of new centres of power, and like any other region in the world, South Asia has started experiencing the realities of a new polycentric world. In the new polycentric world, South Asian countries would be guided by new paradigms and parameters as compared to what we have been used in the past. All the seven nation states of South Asia - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives are developing countries and are passing through different stages of development and nation state building.

India is motivated by its historical impulses and contemporary perceptions to continue its derive for hegemony to maintain peace in the region. All countries except Pakistan are too weak to stand upto India. Pakistan is one regional power which has persisted in resisting Indian drive for hegemony and had entered into an alliance relationship with west.

India and Pakistan still remain trapped in the nightmare of enmity and tension and refuse of the burdens of the past. India and Pakistan have not only saddled with bitter and mutually antagonistic postures against each other but, have also fought three wars. Among the disputes and major issues that have aggravated their security concerns are the bitter legacy of the past. Kashmir dispute, Siachin and sponsored terrorism are some burning problems between the two nations.

As a whole in the inter-regional perspectives, it can be speculated that South Asia is an Indo Centric region to the extent that India is capable of playing as the Central actor in this region on account of its tangible elements of power and performance.
Despite all the plus points some scholars like Israni Kiniat and Hakim Israni (1) have not accepted India's Suzerainty on the basis of calculated drawbacks.

The present study reveals something different. Began with the end of cold war, the disintegration of USSR, unification Germany and Korea, rise of unipolar power - USA, Chinese power game, the military buildup in Indian ocean and its effect on South Asia. The SAARC countries their relations with India, economy, defence, political stability balance of power, all arranged in eight systematic suitable chapters goes to the credit side of India's balance sheet. The study is a Library Research based upon historical analytical, speculative and a priori approach and formal descriptive - layonomic and normative prescription method.

All datas, comments available against or in favour have been placed without any malice. On the basis of the pre-eminence of India its highest population, largest area, commandable defence, political stability, devotion, world opinion and policy undoubtedly India is regional power.

I have met with many ups and downs during this study, but, have been provided profound motivation by my research guide, Professor M.A. Kishore, Department of Political Science, A.M.U., Aligarh. I wish to acknowledge my heartfelt gratitude and deep appreciation to him. I am also thankful to Professor Hasan Ahmeji, Chairman, Department of Political Science for his encouragement, cooperation and useful suggestions.

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