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**Summary of  
Active Participation of Developing  
Countries in United Nations  
Peacekeeping Operations: Cases  
Comparison of India, Pakistan, Nepal, and  
Bangladesh**

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The United Nations is an international organization that is committed to preserving international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, and promoting social process and human rights. To help control and resolve armed conflict, the United Nations established a technique called peacekeeping. As the most comprehensive world organization, the United Nations has the legal basis for and the power to pacify the inflammatory situation with peacekeeping missions. A new global security dynamic began with the approval of the first UN peacekeeping mission, the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in 1948. The deployment and operation of peacekeeping missions have been rightly considered one of the most successful initiatives in the history of the United Nations. Over the past 70 years, more than 1 million men and women have served under the UN flag in more than 70 UN peacekeeping operations. From the beginning of the UN peacekeeping operations, member states of the UN have been contributing peacekeepers. With the end of the Cold War, the contributions of the developing countries in UN peacekeeping operations have increased significantly.

The topic of the research is chosen due to the great importance of developing countries participation in UN peacekeeping operations. With the growing importance of developing countries participation in the United Nations peacekeeping operations, more rigorous research should be needed in this area. Most of the research on developing countries participation in the UN peacekeeping operations are only focuses on common reasons to the participation of developing countries in UN peacekeeping operations but does not provide any insight on the comparative study of developing countries participation. Due to some common and some uncommon motivations of the developing countries for the participation, comparative study helps to provide insightful ideas. Lack of comparative perspective can be fulfilled by the comparative study on four different South Asian developing countries, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

The subject deals with the United Nations peacekeeping operations and participation of developing countries in the peacekeeping. Participation of the developing countries in peacekeeping operations has a long history. The research covers the period from 1948 to 2018. The research explores the reasons and motivations of developing countries participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In the literature of peacekeeping, scholars argue that states take part in peacekeeping for their national interests. According to these arguments, states agree to contribute their troops to UN multilateral operations to further their national interests, including political, economic, and military ones. However, their national interests are

anticipated not by a natural process or a unitary actor's decision but by complex political processes that involve both domestic political actors and international ones.

To understand and explain developing countries' motivations for UN peacekeeping, it is necessary to introduce a comprehensive analytic framework that covers international and domestic political factors simultaneously. This dissertation presents the role of various actors in developing states in the process of making decisions to commit troops to UN peacekeeping operations. The research incorporates different variables for the motivation of the country to participate in UN peacekeeping such as political, economic, military, and normative. This dissertation includes the study of four South Asian countries; India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Among them, India has the second largest active military in the world with 1,443,921 active militaries. For almost seven decades, more than 200,000 Indians have served in 49 out of 71 peacekeeping missions established around the world since 1948. In pursuit of global peace and security, Indian soldiers have donned the blue helmet and shown a significant level of activism in the new millennium in different extra-regional peace operations. India has demonstrated its capacity to provide an integrated force comprising land, sea, and air elements to UN peacekeeping operations. Some of the missions, Indian civilian personnel served as a high-rank official. India has not only provided 15 Force commanders to various missions, but also it was the first country to contribute to the Trust Fund on sexual exploitation and abuse, which was set up in 2016. Currently, around 6700, uniformed peacekeepers are taking part in the different peacekeeping operations in the world. Among them, a major percentage of the peacekeepers are engaged in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. Until, December 2018, 164 Indian peacekeepers have sacrificed their lives while serving with the United Nations.

Similarly, Pakistan has the sixth highest active armed force in the world with 654,000 active militaries. Since the first participation of Pakistan in UN peacekeeping operations in 1960, it has provided large numbers of peacekeepers. The strengths of Pakistan in UN peacekeeping can be seen in its capacity to make substantial troop commitments. In 1994, Pakistan contributed 10.94 percent of UN military troops and Pakistan became the single most significant troop contributor to UN missions worldwide. At that time total contribution of Pakistan in UN peacekeeping was larger than the contribution of some of the major powers, such as France (8.53%), the UK (5.11%), the United States (1.34%) and even other traditional peacekeepers like Canada (3.5%). The highest number of the contribution of Pakistan in UN peacekeeping at a time when the overall demand for ground forces made it a very significant

and active troop contributor. For the entire journey of the UN peacekeeping, 150 peacekeepers from Pakistan sacrificed their lives.

Furthermore, Nepal has 95,000 active armed forces. Over sixty years, the participation of Nepal in UN peacekeeping has been remarkable. It started to participate in UN peacekeeping since 1958. It has been an active participant of most UN peace operations. Since 1958, Nepal has contributed approximately, 1,25,367 personnel in 42 peacekeeping missions. Currently, 5043 peacekeepers are serving in 12 different missions around the world, making it one of the UN's largest troop-contributing countries. The tremendous effort, courage, and commitment of the Nepalese troops in discharging their duties and responsibilities to the mission have been appreciated by the UN as well as host countries. During the UN peacekeeping journey of Nepal, 76 peacekeepers had lost their lives.

Finally, Bangladesh has an active military strength of 160,000. Bangladesh had navigated a long road since 1988 when it first sent troops to a UN peacekeeping mission. Since then, more than 144,645 peacekeepers were participated in 54 UN peacekeeping missions and faithfully performed a wide range of duties. As a small state and a relatively new peacekeeper, an active peacekeeping policy adopted by Bangladesh as part of its overall forward-looking approach to foreign relations. The total fatalities of peacekeepers of Bangladesh in the various peacekeeping operations were 146 until December 2018.

The main objective of the research is to find, understand, and explain the efforts of developing countries in managing interstate and intrastate disputes through peacekeeping operations. With the focus on a comparative study, the research also describes the multiple motivations behind the active participation of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, domestic and international conditions and their impact on the decision-making process of participation in UN peacekeeping operations is another important part of the research. The research analyses the entire history participation of India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh in UN peacekeeping operations in the different part of the world.

The dissertation starts with an introductory section that outlines the rationale of the research, its objectives, and methodological notes. Then, the dissertation is divided into six chapters.

The purpose of the first chapter is to give a broad overview and some background to UN peacekeeping operations, their legal underpinnings, and core characteristics. It provides relevant concepts, Genesis, and essence of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Second, it outlines the evolving nature and role of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Third, the

section explains the planning of a United Nations peacekeeping operation. Then Finally, the fourth section discusses the phases of mandate implementation.

The Second chapter presents the case study of India with a long history of peacekeeping participation. Being a founder member of the United Nations, India has been participating in the different activities of the United Nations since its inception on 24th October 1945. With a proud history of UN peacekeeping dating back to its inception in the 1950s, India stands solidly committed to helping the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security. The chapter divided into four sections. The first section explains multiple reasons and motivations for its participation in the UN peacekeeping operations such as national, geo-strategic, economic, interests and peace and humanitarian concern as well as showing of solidarity with the nonaligned and ex-colonial countries. India also took peacekeeping as a tool to fulfill the international responsibilities to the UN. The economic factor is less important for India, but a desire of UN Security Council and regional rivalry are most emphasized motivational factors for India. Next section presents the conditions of participation in UN peacekeeping operations. It covers the domestic and international conditions and their impact on India's participation in UN peacekeeping. Furthermore, the scope and extent of involvement in UN peacekeeping operations discussed in the following section. It explains the entire participation of India in UN peacekeeping operations and the performance and responsibilities of Indian peacekeepers. India has contributed a large number of troops in several missions. Furthermore, India has also provided and continues to provide eminent Force Commanders for UN Missions. The Indian troops and policemen deployed on UN Missions have been consistently keeping high standards of performance and have won high regard worldwide. The final section incorporates the results of the chapter. India's proactivism in UN peacekeeping has been motivated by a strong desire to be considered favorably as a candidate for a permanent seat on the Security Council and realization of its ambitions for 'great power' recognition in a globalizing world.

The third chapter explains the case of Pakistan as an influential contributor to the United Nations peacekeeping operations. Pakistan is an active troop contributor of the 21<sup>st</sup> century which can tackle some of the unprecedented peacekeeping challenges in the field today. Pakistan has been using a successful field strategy by establishing good relations between a peacekeeper and the civil community. Its military forces are well suited to function in local civil communities. The multiple factors motivate the active participation of Pakistan in the UN peacekeeping operations such as national interests, geo-strategic interests, Institutional interests, the cause of peace and humanitarian concern, economic and regional rivalry. Due to the dominance of the army, the institutional interests have been playing a vital role to

participate in UN peacekeeping operations. The rivalry with India in the region is the most emphasized factor for its participation. Pakistan is deeply affected by the multiple conflicts within a country and bearing international pressure to play a vital role in the war of terrorism and religious extremism. Despite many difficulties, the contribution of Pakistan in UN peacekeeping cannot be ignored. The desire of Pakistan to participate in UN peacekeeping is guided to fulfill national and international interests. It is well known that Pakistan is one of the most committed and undoubtedly an active contributor of UN peacekeepers and its peacekeepers has demonstrated the high level of skills that meet some of the unprecedented needs emerging in the field today.

The fourth chapter seeks to present the case of Nepal as an efficient contributor of a United Nations peacekeeping operations. Nepal is one of the oldest countries in the region. Comparatively small and located in a sensitive geopolitical environment, national interests, and political and security rationales are the major motivating factors to participate in UN peacekeeping operations. As a peace-loving country, peace and humanitarian concern is another influential factor. Being the least developed countries in the world with a per capita income of \$1004, the economic benefit gained from the UN peacekeeping mission is remarkable. To develop professionalism and skills, institutional rationales is another reason for its participation in UN peacekeeping operations. Nepal has been struggling with the political instability within the country and dominance of powerful countries. Besides an active member of the UN, Nepal is an active and original member of the Non-Aligned Movement. It has shown strong commitment towards peace, security, and disarmament. It has supported the establishment of peace zones in different parts of the world for the sake of world peace. It is in favor of general and complete disarmament. Nepal believes that disarmament process should be moved forward through the gradual elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and substantial scaling down in conventional armaments. Despite, a small and limited strength, the engagement of Nepal with the UN has been active and meaningful. Nepal believes that for peace, security, fraternity, and development of the world, the role of the UN as an embodiment. Nepal has a strong faith in the UN. Hence, one of the cardinal principles of Nepal's foreign policy, as enshrined in its constitution, is the faith in the UN system. The active participation in UN peacekeeping operations is its commitment to the UN and the world community. The performance of Nepalese peacekeepers is highly appreciated by the world community. The Nepalese peacekeepers have always accepted challenges and participated in most difficult operations. The commitment of Nepal towards international peace and security is not only consistent but also long-standing.

The fifth chapter analyses the case of Bangladesh as a committed contributor to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The chapter starts with a general background. Then outlines the reasons and motivations for participation in UN peacekeeping operations. Due to the newly established country in South Asia, political and security, as well as national interests, are the major motivating factors to participate in UN peacekeeping operations. The role of the Bangladesh army is dominant in the country, and the army official ruled the country many years; that's why the institutional interests are also an influential factor in the participation. Economic incentives and desire for peace and humanitarian concerns are also observed as motivations of Bangladesh participation in UN peacekeeping operations. The following section explains the conditions of participation in UN peacekeeping operations. Bangladesh has been facing political instability within a country since its establishment in 1971. The regional rivalry between India and Pakistan also impacted its foreign policy. Furthermore, the scope and extent of involvement in UN peacekeeping operations discussed in the following section. Since 1988, Bangladesh has been contributing to UN peacekeeping operations. The performance of its peacekeepers is highly appreciable. The platform of UN peacekeeping helps to Bangladesh to strengthening its image and increasing its presence in the international community. The final section incorporates the results of the chapter. Despite political instability and economic constraints, Bangladesh's troop commitments continue to rise exponentially. As one of the most troop-contributing countries, Bangladesh has shown its strong commitment towards peace and stability.

In the sixth chapter, the dissertation ends with a comparative analysis and conclusion section that first outlines briefly the overall involvement of four developing countries of South Asia, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh in the peacekeeping operations, then presents a comparative picture of four countries motivation behind participation in UN peacekeeping operations and tries to explain the differences between the cases. And, finally, the dissertation concludes with a final section that summarizes key observations of the research, presents some conclusions drawn from the previous chapters, and offers suggestions for future research.

The research attempted to explore the reasons and motivations of developing countries in the UN peacekeeping operations with special focus on these four South Asian countries, and this research confirmed that the participation of these four South Asian countries influenced by the multi-dimensional interests. All these four countries are actively participating in UN peacekeeping because they want to achieve their goals and objectives. UN peacekeeping had become a convenient, rational, and practical activity for these countries to achieve their goals. These four states try to maintain their status in UN peacekeeping as it is incredibly beneficial

to them. While enjoying a favourable reputation as peacekeepers, they can pursue their national interests.

These states have cooperated with the United Nations and its peacekeeping efforts in different ways, but they have some common motivations such as political, economic, military, and normative interests. Several benefits and rewards were received by these countries for their active participation in UN peace missions. As valuable, responsible, and reliable supporters of peacekeeping, the international community could regard India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal. It has been observed that these four countries have been the consistent top ten contributors of troops in UN peace operations for more than a decade, and their desire to preserve their status in UN peacekeeping is rooted in their length and level of service demonstrates. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal portrayed the right image in the international community because they have established a reputation for having active participation in international peacekeeping. Despite some similarities and some differences in political, economic, and military rationales, all the four countries have a similar type of normative motivation to the contribution in UN peacekeeping. To promote respect for fundamental human rights universally is a deep concern of all these four countries.

It is confirmed that the role of both international and domestic actors is important to participate in UN peacekeeping. The domestic and international conditions have impacted the participation of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal in UN peacekeeping operations. The four countries participation in UN peacekeeping demonstrates that their contribution is higher when domestic and international conditions are in their favor. It is observed that participation was at a slow pace when countries are encountered with internal conflicts and political instability. In the case of Pakistan and Bangladesh, the political instability was appeared due to the conflict of interests between the political leaders and military and hampered their participation to the UN peacekeeping operations. In the case of Nepal, a decade long Maoist insurgency resulted in the minimum numbers of participants of peacekeepers. In the case of India, participation was at a slow pace during the war with China and Pakistan. Finally, it is concluded that these four countries are comfortable to participate in the UN peacekeeping operations when domestic and international conditions are in their favour.

The research has shown that the United Nations peacekeeping operation is a major work of the United Nations to maintain peace all over the world. To fulfill the requirement of UN peacekeeping operations, developing countries have been playing a vital role. The research focused on the efforts of developing countries to maintain peace in the world and find that developing countries are significant and indispensable contributors to UN peacekeeping



operations. It is observed that all the top ten contributors to the UN peacekeeping operations are developing countries, and they have been maintaining their positions for a long time. As per the data of the department of UN peacekeeping of December 2018, Ethiopia was contributing the highest number of peacekeepers to the UN peacekeeping operations followed by Bangladesh. Similarly, Rwanda, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Egypt, Indonesia, Ghana, and China are ranked third to ten, respectively.

Furthermore, this research finds that the active participation of four South Asian countries India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal in UN peacekeeping operations with the contributions of the major proportion of the peacekeeping forces. For instance, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal together contributed 25 percent of the total UN peacekeepers worldwide. As of December 2018, 6,624 peacekeepers from Bangladesh were serving in the peacekeeping operations, the second largest contingent, after Ethiopia with 7,597 peacekeepers. India was the fourth with 6,445 peacekeepers, followed by Nepal contributed 6,098 peacekeepers and Pakistan with total contributions of 5,262 peacekeepers.