

Theory and Practice of Conflict Resolution
(TPCR) Study Group

South Asia from the Perspective of Geopolitics and Conflict Resolution



Edited by Hideaki Shinoda
and Sandunika Hasangani

2025.12

ROLES REPORT No.46

South Asia from the Perspective of Geopolitics and Conflict Resolution

Edited by Hideaki Shinoda
and Sandunika Hasangani

2025.12

発行所： 東京大学先端科学技術研究センター

創発戦略研究オープンラボ (ROLES)

〒153-8904 東京都目黒区駒場 4-6-1

電話： 03-5452-5462

Web サイト： <https://roles.rcast.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>

ISBN 978-4-910833-03-3

Table of Contents

1. Introduction <i>Hideaki Shinoda and Sandunika Hasangani</i>	8
2. The Kashmir Conflict in the 21st Century from the Perspective of Confronting Theories of Geopolitics and the Narratives of the War on Terror and the Clash of Civilizations <i>Hideaki Shinoda</i>	22
3. Narrative Framing, Conspiracy Theories, Propaganda and Hate between India and Pakistan after the Pahalgam attack: An Analysis of Twitter Data <i>Sandunika Hasangani</i>	39
4. Evolving a Sri Lankan National Security Strategy (NSS) in a turbulent security environment: insights from Japan <i>Harinda Vidanage</i>	62
5. Bangladesh's Recent Political Developments in a Strategic Setting: Crisis in Bangladesh and its Regional Impacts <i>Md. Jahangir Alam</i>	79
6. The Impact of India's Rise on South Asia <i>Nilanthan Niruthan K. A.</i>	103
7. Political Dynamics in South Asia through the Analysis of Afghanistan under the Taliban Interim Government and Its Relations with Pakistan <i>Masato TORIYA</i>	122
8. Trincomalee: The emerging epicenter of global power politics in the Indian Ocean <i>Sahani Welikala</i>	147
9. Dynamism of Geopolitics over the Hindu Kush–Khorasan Area: The Trajectories of Afghanistan and Pakistan in the Midst of Geopolitical Struggles <i>Mohammad Jawad Ali Aqa and Hideaki Shinoda</i>	187

List of Contributors

Name	Title
Hideaki Shinoda	Professor, Institute of Global Studies, the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, and Senior Associate Member of ROLES of the University of Tokyo, Japan
Sandunika Hasangani	Senior Lecturer, The Open University of Sri Lanka
Harinda Vidanage	Director, Centre for Strategic Assessment, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka
Md. Jahangir Alam	Associate Professor, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Nilanthan Niruthan K. A.	Defense analyst and the Executive Director of the Centre for Law And Security Studies (CLASS), Sri Lanka
Masato TORIYA	Associate Professor, Institute of Global Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan.
Sahani Welikala	Managing Director, Conley Teas
Mohammad Jawad Ali Aqa	Research Fellow, Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HPC), Japan

Profiles

Hideaki Shinoda

Hideaki Shinoda is Professor at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and Senior Associate Member of ROLES of the University of Tokyo. He is head of “Theory and Practice of Conflict Resolution” Study Group. He completed his PhD in International Relations at London School of Economics and Political Science in 1998. His international experience includes visiting scholar appointments at the University of Cambridge and Columbia University as well as service as a Visiting Professional at the International Criminal Court. He has received multiple academic awards for his work on peacebuilding, theory and history of international affairs and ideas such as state sovereignty. He has 16 single-authored books in

English and Japanese with some translated into Chinese, in addition to numerous edited books, book chapters, journal articles, publications for the public, etc. He also has rich experiences of practical activities including refugee relief, UN peacekeeping, training course organizer and facilitator, etc.

Sandunika Hasangani

Sandunika Hasangani serves as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Studies at the Open University of Sri Lanka. She holds a BA from the University of Colombo, an MA from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), and a PhD from TUFS, specialising in areas such as International Relations, digital ethnography, political anthropology, political communication, and visual/multisensory politics, with a focus on China. She has won several research grants and awards, and has published in various high-quality international journals and edited volumes.

Harinda Vidanage

Harinda Vidanage is currently Director Centre for Strategic Assessment (CSA) Gen Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Sri Lanka (KDU), he is also the Director International Relations KDU and Senior Advisor, Centre for Law and Security Studies (CLASS), Sri Lanka. He was the first civilian to Head the department of Strategic Studies at KDU from 2020 – 2023. Harinda was formerly Director, Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) and Assistant Professor of International Relations, St. Lawrence University, New York from 2012 – 2016. Harinda is a Senior Fulbright Scholar. He gained his PhD from the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom as an ORSAS and Principles Scholar. He is an Honorary Fellow at Stratenewsglobal.com, Research Fellow at Bangladesh Center for Indo Pacific Affairs, and at Nepal Institute of International Cooperation (NIICE). Harinda advocates for Strategic thought, global political awareness and expansion of policy think tank space in Sri Lanka.

Md. Jahangir Alam

Md Jahangir Alam is an Associate Professor and former Chairman of the Department of Japanese Studies at the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh. His research interests encompass various development discourses, focusing on the Political Economy of Education, International Development and

Education Cooperation, and Japan-Bangladesh Relations. He has collaborated with various international and national organizations. Dr. Alam has received numerous international awards and scholarships from academic associations and government entities, such as the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), USA and the Japanese Ministry of Education (MEXT), for his outstanding contributions to international education development. He possesses an extensive portfolio of academic publications, including book chapters and journal articles. Additionally, he authored the book 'Bangladesh-Japan Diplomatic Relations (1972-2022): A New Paradigm of Strategic Partnership.' He earned a Ph.D. in Education Policy from the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies at Kobe University in Japan.

Nilanthan Niruthan

Nilanthan Niruthan is a defense analyst and the Executive Director of the Centre for Law And Security Studies (CLASS). His analysis has been published by institutions like West Point, Yale, Johns Hopkins and Columbia, along with popular publications like The Diplomat and Small Wars. He has also served as a peer reviewer for journals belonging to Oxford University Press and Marine Corps University Press. He is a regular commentator for StratNewsGlobal, India's largest dedicated strategic media platform, and is a visiting lecturer at the National Defense College, Sri Lanka's highest seat of strategic learning. Nilanthan is also the founder of CLASS GRI, Sri Lanka's leading Geostrategic Risk Index.

Masato TORIYA

Masato TORIYA is Associate Professor, Institute of Global Studies / Urdu Language Program, Faculty of International and Area Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan and also a member of the university's Center for South Asian Studies. In addition, he serves as a visiting research fellow at the Institute of Oriental Culture, Daito Bunka University, and as a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Global Studies, Sophia University. His primary fields of research are South Asian area studies and modern and contemporary history, with a particular focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as Pashtun language and culture.

Sahani Welikala

Sahani Welikala is Managing Director, Conley Teas. She holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in International Relations from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, respectively. Her academic interests include peace and conflict studies, trade and maritime security in the Asia Pacific region, geopolitics, geoeconomics, and the broader Indo Pacific framework. Professionally, She has experience in business development, export operations, client account management, sales and customer relations, where I have worked closely with diverse stakeholders and international markets. She is currently the Founder and CEO of CONLEY, a premium Ceylon tea brand specializing in handmade and specialty teas. Through CONLEY, I focus on curating specialty Ceylon teas for a luxury tea experience.

Mohammad Jawad Ali Aqa

Mohammad Jawad Ali Aqa is Research Fellow, Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HPC), Japan. He obtained his doctoral degree at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan. His peer-reviewed publications explore peace and conflict studies, international aid, geopolitics, contentious politics, state-building, and cultural trauma and identity transmission, with a particular regional emphasis on Central and South Asia. His research integrates quantitative analysis with strong theoretical scholarship. Beyond academia, he has professional experience in international program coordination, contributing to the implementation of the Global Peacebuilders Program commissioned to the Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. He is also an op-ed contributor to media outlets such as Fair Observer and The Globe Post.