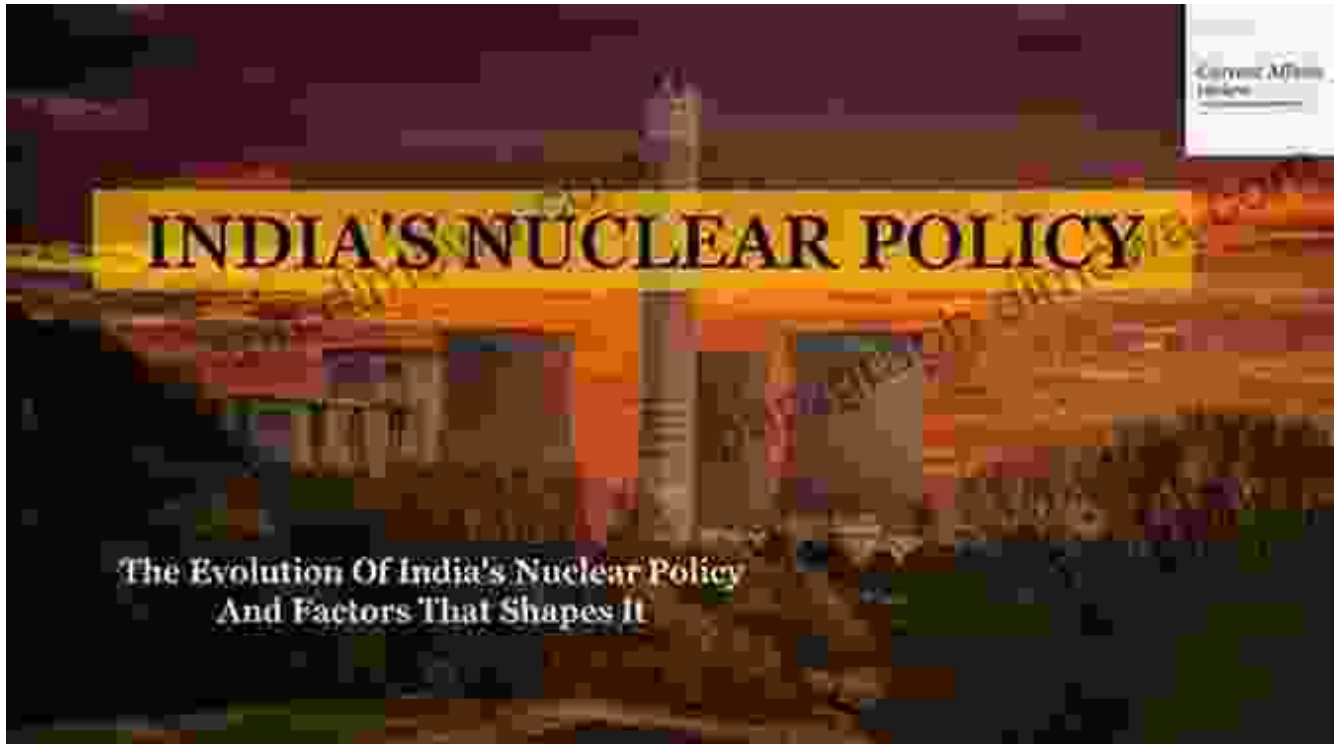
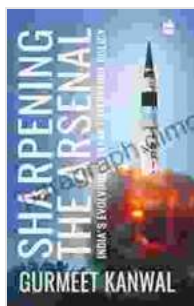


India's Evolving Nuclear Deterrence Policy: Navigating a Complex Landscape



India's nuclear deterrence policy has been a cornerstone of its national security strategy for decades. In the aftermath of the Cold War, India has sought to develop a credible and effective nuclear deterrence posture to protect its interests and deter potential threats. This policy has evolved over time, reflecting changes in India's security environment, technological advancements, and strategic thinking.



Sharpening the Arsenal: India's Evolving Nuclear

Deterrence Policy by Matthew Degelleke

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2253 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 296 pages
Hardcover : 139 pages
Item Weight : 9.4 ounces
Dimensions : 6 x 0.54 x 9 inches



Historical Background

India's nuclear journey began in the 1950s with the establishment of the Atomic Energy Commission. In 1974, India conducted its first nuclear test, codenamed "Smiling Buddha." This test sparked international condemnation and led to India's nuclear isolation. India remained officially committed to a policy of "no first use" of nuclear weapons, but it embarked on a clandestine nuclear weapons program.

Post-Cold War Evolution

The end of the Cold War brought about significant changes in the global security landscape. India faced new security challenges, including the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the rise of non-state actors. In response, India began to reassess its nuclear posture.

In 1998, India conducted a series of nuclear tests, marking a turning point in its nuclear policy. These tests were followed by the release of a nuclear doctrine that outlined India's nuclear policy principles. The doctrine reaffirmed India's commitment to "no first use" and emphasized nuclear deterrence.

Current Policy

India's current nuclear deterrence policy is based on the principles of "minimum credible deterrence" and "assured retaliation." Minimum credible deterrence refers to the idea that India will only maintain a nuclear arsenal sufficient to deter any potential adversary. Assured retaliation refers to the belief that India will be able to inflict unacceptable damage on any aggressor, even if it is attacked first.

India's nuclear arsenal consists of a mix of nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and aircraft. India is also developing advanced nuclear delivery systems, including hypersonic missiles and nuclear-powered submarines.

Regional and Global Context

India's nuclear deterrence policy is influenced by the security environment in the South Asian region. India has long-standing disputes with Pakistan and China, both of which possess nuclear weapons. India's nuclear deterrence posture is also shaped by global developments, such as the nuclear ambitions of North Korea and Iran.

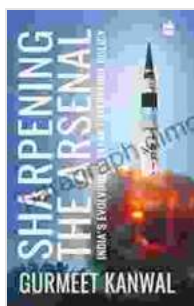
India has engaged in nuclear diplomacy with both Pakistan and China to reduce the risk of nuclear war. India has also been a vocal advocate for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Challenges and Controversies

India's evolving nuclear deterrence policy has not been without its challenges and controversies. Some critics argue that India's nuclear arsenal is destabilizing and increases the risk of nuclear war. Others contend that India's nuclear policy is insufficient to deter adversaries and protect its security interests.

Despite these challenges, India remains committed to its nuclear deterrence policy. India believes that its nuclear arsenal is essential for its national security and that it will continue to evolve and adapt to the changing security environment.

India's nuclear deterrence policy is a complex and evolving subject. It reflects India's unique security challenges, strategic interests, and technological capabilities. India's nuclear deterrence posture has undergone significant changes over time, but its fundamental principles remain the same: to deter potential threats and protect India's national security. As the security landscape continues to evolve, India will likely continue to adjust its nuclear deterrence policy to meet the challenges of the future.



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