

The “DOKLAM” Border Standoff between Two Asian Giants

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Abstract

Sino-Indian border disputes have a long history which marked the deterioration of their relations. This particular study is mainly focused on ‘Doklam’ face-off, the most recent confrontation of borderland between China and India. The tension between India and China were again intensified with the ‘Doklam’ face-off and this situation taught unforgettable lessons for both sides. The study will discuss historical background of their border disputes. The main objective is to examine the present situation of the border disputes regarding the ‘Doklam’ face-off and also discusses what types of changes will happen in their future bilateral relations regarding the ‘Doklam’ incident. Furthermore the study will examine the Bhutan factor which is the third party of the ‘Doklam’ face-off. To achieve aforesaid objectives a qualitative approach has been adopted and secondary data is the main type of data obtained from various sources such as books, journal articles, newspapers, government records and other relevant documents available in both printed and electronic versions. Document analysis and theoretical analysis are used to analyze data. In document analysis documents are interpreted to give meaning and it collects available data related to the study and interprets them to find out specific issues. Concepts derived from literature review and theoretical analysis help to develop broader understanding on those issues and collect new knowledge. The research findings conclude that Chinese influence over the other entities seems inevitable with its rise as a global economic and military power which is perceived as a threat by India. India is also trying to match Chinese rise resulting suspicion and fear psychosis among one another’s achievements. Border disputes are considered as one of the main factors which are shaping their bilateral relations. Time to time these disputes have turned their relations into tensions. The Border States and areas, such as Bhutan and ‘Doklam’ have become convergent points for both India and China due to its strategic importance in the border areas. Furthermore, this particular study emphasized the importance of resolute solution for the standoff between India and China.

Key words: Standoff, Border disputes, Bilateral relations, Convergence, Face-off

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