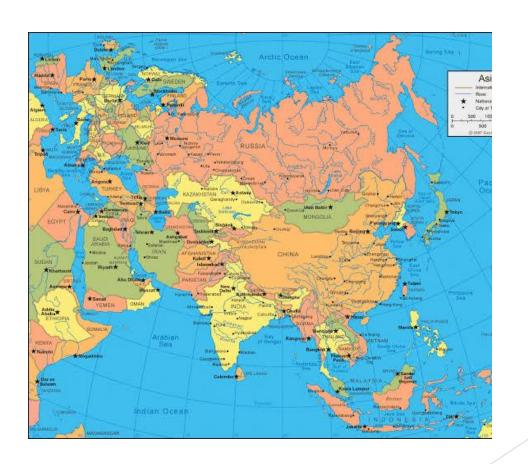
# India and Japan: Nuclear Choices and International Security

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GRIPS Conference
The Neutrals and The Bomb
2019/12/15

## Why India and Japan?

- International Relations perspective
- My research is focused on the Japan-U.S. Security Alliance and the concept of deterrence in Japan's security policy
- Deepening of Indo-Japanese relations--> curious exploration
- Both nations located in tense neighborhoods
- Emerged on the opposite sides of the Cold War



## Research Objective

- Compare India and Japan's path towards security vis-a-vis the (pursuit or contemplation of) the nuclear choice
  - ► The "nuclear choice" refers to nuclear weapons acquisition
  - Assumption that the possession of the bomb would increase their sense of security
- This question is motivated by two factors:
  - Self-Image/ or Identity
  - ▶ Perception of the international order and role in it

### 1. Self-Image/Identity

- Defining their identity, rooted in nationhood, survival
- Democratic institutions
- Foreign policy linked to ideology







NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1947.

# **ENDS**

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TAKES OVER

MOUNTBATTEN'S APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR-GENERAL ENDORSED

COLOUDEIL CEDEMONYMADY



LEADERS TELL NATION OF TASKS



# Self Image/Identity

#### India

- Why the choice for non-alignment? And what did that promise
- Newly independent, not aligning with either power blocs- the West or the East
- "Refrain from engaging in power politics" (?)
- Sought aid from the U.S. in 1962 and signed Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union in 1971
- Non-Alignment in terms of foreign policy alignment, supportive of anticolonial struggles, broader Afro-Asian unity

#### Japan

- Why the choice of alignment?
- Post U.S. Occupation, foreign and security policy linked to the U.S.
- Questions on use of military, as per Article 9 also impacted debates on nuclear possession
- "Nuclear Allergy" or Nuclear Aversion (Pacifism)
- Neutrality was used in the concept of use of military, "Unarmed Neutrality" represented the position of the Left in the 1960s

# Contemplation or Pursuit of the Nuclear Choice

#### India

- Focus on civil nuclear energy (PM Nehru-Nuclear physicst Homi Bhabha)
- Questions about linking principles of nonalignment with pursuit of the bomb (its security benefits couoldn't be denied)
- ▶ 1962 war with China and India's appeal to the U.S for help + China's nuclear test in 1964
- Jana Sangha Party, Swatantra Party called for India"s development of weapons
- Private talks of a U.S security guarantee to India
- Debates over NPT: "haves vs. Have nots"
- New govt. Under Indira Gandhi, 1974 "PNE" was conducted

#### Japan

- Domestic groups: left vs. Right;
- Sophisticated civil nuclear energy program (plutonium reprocessing)
- Nuclear Latency or "Nuclear Hedging"
- Study undertaken in the 1970s
- Civilian nuclear tech+ receiving security guarantee from U.S-->3 non-nuclear principles
- 3 principles but 4 pillars

# Perception of the International Order and Role In It

- Work In Progress
- International Orders and Nuclear Weapons
  - Bipolarity
  - ▶ Deterrence (non-proliferation) structures
  - ▶ Non-Proliferation Regimes that became a pillar of international security
- Role of regional geopolitics: South Asia and East Asia drove India and Japan's behaviour

#### Conclusion

- India and Japan, both,
  - Questioned each other's moral high-ground
    - ▶ India's choice to go nuclear: Despite being non-aligned, chose deterrence over disarmament
    - ▶ Japan's choice not to go nuclear: Convenient position, could advocate nuclear disarmament while relying under the protection of the U.S. nuclear umbrella
    - ► Narratives around ideology (non-alignment)= realism cushioned in idealism?
  - External events drove domestic debates:
    - ▶ 1970s: Sino-Indian war in 1962, China's nuclear test in 1964, debates on NPT signature
    - ▶ 1990s:India's decision to go nuclear in 1998 and Japan, another study in 1990s, before agreeing to permanently extend NPT
  - Threat Perceptions
  - In the search for new narratives, diversity of opinions, different cultural backgrounds, and unique historial trajectories are all nuclear choices about survival?

# Thank You for your attention!