

INDO - SRI LANKA MARITIME BOUNDARY AND BEYOND; WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO 21ST CENTURY

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The countries in the Indian Ocean Region face many maritime security challenges. India has maritime issues with many of her neighbors including Sri Lanka, such as fisheries issues, maritime piracy, trafficking of illicit drugs and people, etc. With reference to these maritime issues, the study inquires about the relationship between India and Sri Lanka, reasons for the maritime issues, solutions available, and the legal aspect of these issues. Identification and analysis of maritime issues and finding better solutions for preventive mechanisms is the main focus of this research. To analyze maritime issues from a theoretical perception Alfred Mayan's Sea Power theory, deterrence theory have been used. Some recommendations have been given as strategies for the current maritime issues. In this study, the main consideration is to identify and analyze the still ongoing maritime issues between India and Sri Lanka. The objectives of this study are to examine maritime issues between India and Sri Lanka, assess the reasons for prevailing maritime issues, and to determine the solutions for these issues. The methodology is based on qualitative analysis of secondary data. This is a descriptive and theoretical academic research. Although quantitative data will be used, this research heavily relies on qualitative analysis. It is identified that issues are addressed on an international basis by applying legal frameworks. The United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea 1982 plays a major role in ensuring maritime security. Also, the International Maritime Organization is an effective part in maritime security. Since it is evident that a nation cannot find solutions for maritime issues alone, it needs to make joint efforts. Rather than using strategies individually it is better to develop the cooperation between countries and put efforts to solve problems to gain benefits for both countries.

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