

Of Peace (IOZOP) proposal. New Delhi's overriding policy has always been to keep Indian Ocean affairs in the hands of Indian Ocean states -- preferably under the leadership of India. In this context, it is not unreasonable to suggest that India is concerned about extra-regional activity in its immediate area because, after all, it is the *Indian* Ocean. This is an increasingly important point for, as one analyst has succinctly put it: "The Indian Ocean, unlike the Arabian Sea, the English Channel and the Irish Sea, is to be not only proximately, but strategically, defined by its adjective."²

After independence, New Delhi first tried to exclude external powers from the affairs of South Asia by seeking bilateral relations with its neighbours. In the 1950s, it was unsuccessful in trying to establish a regional economic and security system centred on India.³ What Indian policymakers failed to recognize was that the post-war interdependent world offered little opportunity for independent action by newly emerging states. Nor were its neighbours, particularly Pakistan, enthralled at the prospect of a future under India's wing. Parochial Indian interests were soon overtaken by the Cold War strategic rivalry of the United States and the Soviet Union, whose global competition quickly extended to the subcontinent.

From Washington's perspective, a strong Pakistan stood as a bulwark against growing communist influence in South Asia -- the prospects for which looked increasingly good following Khrushchev's successful visit to India in 1955. Similarly, the Soviets saw their ties with India countering US influence in Pakistan and as a challenge to Washington's policy of containing communism. After the Sino-Soviet split, Moscow's friendship with New Delhi served the additional Soviet role of containing China. For Pakistan, membership in the SEATO and CENTO alliances offered an opportunity to gain military and diplomatic support against its traditional enemy. Finally, Pakistan's alliances appeared threatening to India and it sought

² McKinley, Michael. "At Anarchy's Rim: Australia and the Indian Ocean." Unpublished paper, Australian National University, December 8, 1988. p. 25.

³ For in-depth analysis of this period see: Rose, Leo E. "India And Its Neighbors: Regional Foreign And Security Politics" in Lawrence Ziring (Ed.) *The Subcontinent In World Politics*, New York: Praeger, 1982, pp. 37-41.