

CONCLUSION

South Asia is locked into a security deficit which it cannot erase. It has a human security deficit which it can. There are avenues for influence by the international community. If there is any solace in the material given here, it is this: policy choice can make a difference. The temptation to surrender to the 'grand forces of history': to globalization, the market, inevitable conflict between hostile states, or indeed to any inevitability, is surly groundless. The BJP has already paid an electoral penalty for choosing guns over ghee, mushroom clouds over cheap onions.

The robust civil society of democratic India, the yearning for alternatives to endless confrontation in all the South Asian states, the full realization of what 'becoming nuclear' entails, is the ultimate hope for an alternative to perpetual sacrifice of human security on the altar of traditional security. In realizing this hope, Canada can play a positive role.