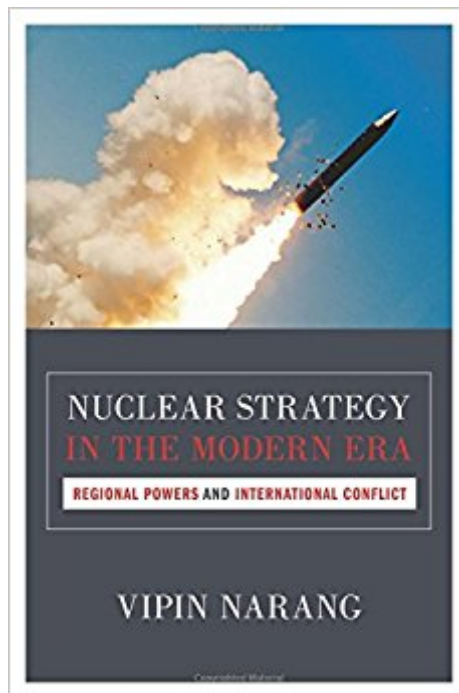


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Nuclear Strategy In The Modern Era: Regional Powers And International Conflict (Princeton Studies In International History And Politics)



Synopsis

The world is in a second nuclear age in which regional powers play an increasingly prominent role. These states have small nuclear arsenals, often face multiple active conflicts, and sometimes have weak institutions. How do these nuclear states--and potential future ones--manage their nuclear forces and influence international conflict? Examining the reasoning and deterrence consequences of regional power nuclear strategies, this book demonstrates that these strategies matter greatly to international stability and it provides new insights into conflict dynamics across important areas of the world such as the Middle East, East Asia, and South Asia. Vipin Narang identifies the diversity of regional power nuclear strategies and describes in detail the posture each regional power has adopted over time. Developing a theory for the sources of regional power nuclear strategies, he offers the first systematic explanation of why states choose the postures they do and under what conditions they might shift strategies. Narang then analyzes the effects of these choices on a state's ability to deter conflict. Using both quantitative and qualitative analysis, he shows that, contrary to a bedrock article of faith in the canon of nuclear deterrence, the acquisition of nuclear weapons does not produce a uniform deterrent effect against opponents. Rather, some postures deter conflict more successfully than others. *Nuclear Strategy in the Modern Era* considers the range of nuclear choices made by regional powers and the critical challenges they pose to modern international security.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Offers a very good analysis of the nuclear postures assumed by regional powers (including France, but, for some reason, not Britain). Unfortunately the text is marred by endless repetitions that degrade its quality and ended by getting on my nerves. A pity.

Excellent book and should be required reading for anybody who lives in or thinks about Indo-Pak security. It's clear India needs to evolve a response to sub-conventional aggression (e.g. 26/11, Delhi Parliament) that does not involve armored brigades rolling across Rajasthan and into Sindh... But what is that response? Not sure but it does seem profoundly clear that (I) India also switching to a first use policy would not be needed and indeed could be disastrous for overall security and (II) assured retaliation of Pakistani population centers is no way to deter these kinds of sub conventional attack.

As a student engaged in the analysis of America's possible nuclear posture for the changing 21st century, it is refreshing to read a more nuanced analysis of our international nuclear situation than the typical Cold War superpower angle. The author does a good job of noting his studies' imperfections, but I strongly believe that his analysis of the nuclear world we live in today moves the needle closer to an accurate representation of the different scenarios we will find ourselves dealing with, particularly when it comes to emerging nuclear states like Iran.

The author is tackling his subject in a new and logical way. I hope his logic withstands the test of time and all the trouble in Asia. His categories seem to capture many of the present situations. Will they match new emerging situations? Time will tell.

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