



Robert and Renée Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

## SOUTH ASIA

*“The successful transformation of the U.S.-India relationship will have a decisive and positive influence on the future international system as it evolves in this new century.”*

March 2, 2006 U.S.-India Joint Statement between U.S. President  
George W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

### Why is South Asia a “Most Important Foreign Policy Challenge?”

The top challenges facing the United States and the world today will require the participation of South Asian countries, particularly India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. For example:

- With a population of over 1.1 billion, India is one of the fastest growing economies today, with **the world’s fourth-largest greenhouse gas emissions**; dealing with climate change will not be possible without India’s involvement.
- The **threat of nuclear war was imminent in 2001 and 2002** when the two nuclear powers, India and Pakistan, lined up their militaries to face one another.
- **Afghanistan produces over 90% of the world’s opium.**
- India is fast becoming a central player, and leading democracy, not just in Asia but globally; **its influence in the region is growing as America’s diminishes.**

### Leadership - What Impact is the Belfer Center Having?

- As Director for South Asia at the National Security Council, **Xenia Dormandy** played an instrumental role in facilitating the U.S-India civilian nuclear deal. Since that time, both Xenia and **Ashton Carter** have provided policy recommendations through Congressional testimony, editorials and briefings on how to move forward.
- The Belfer Center’s Energy Technology Innovation Policy research group (**ETIP**), directed by **Kelly Sims Gallagher**, is at the forefront of efforts to identify and implement policies in India—as well as China and the U.S.—to foster development and deployment of advanced energy technologies to reduce oil-dependence and climate-change risks. Among these are technologies to capture and sequester carbon dioxide produced by coal-fired power plants.
- Belfer Center researchers **Matthew Bunn**, **John Holdren**, and **Graham Allison** work to influence American and foreign governments in managing nuclear technology to minimize dangers from nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism worldwide, including in Pakistan.
- **Joseph Nye** co-chairs, and Ashton Carter and Xenia Dormandy participate in, the Track II U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue led by the Aspen Strategy Group.

- The Belfer Center has organized in-depth senior level discussions and seminars with leaders from the region, such as then-Indian Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee and former U.S. Ambassador to India **Robert Blackwill**.
- The Program on Intrastate Conflict hosted an intensive three-day conference in December 2006, bringing together Afghan and UN officials, NGO leaders and others, that focused on the challenges and opportunities of state building in Afghanistan and resulted in a book.
- Xenia Dormandy, along with Belfer Center Research Fellow and former Pakistani Government official **Hassan Abbas**, has provided much policy advice and analysis on Pakistani leadership, the role of non-state actors, and the future of Pakistan.
- Director of the Program on Intrastate Conflict and Conflict Resolution, **Robert Rotberg**, chairs a four-person committee that awards an annual prize for innovative solutions to Bangladesh's governance and economic development problems. This contest aims to encourage innovative solutions to practical issues of governance.

### **What More Does the Belfer Center Hope to Do?**

- Conduct a research project culminating in articles and editorials on the future balance-of-power in Asia and the role India will play in influencing policy in the region.
- Provide policy recommendations to non-governmental organizations in Pakistan and other governments that will assist in increasing state transparency and restoring democratic institutions.
- Review and help to improve plans for safety, security, proliferation prevention, and waste management during the rapid expansion of nuclear energy in South Asia. Additional work is also needed on the question of how to extend nonproliferation and disarmament obligations to India and Pakistan as non-signatories to the NPT.
- Research and promote policy options available to India to ensure its leadership in filling the gaps in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and other nonproliferation regimes.
- Evaluate progress in addressing the militant activity along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and propose policy options for all parties (Pakistan, Afghanistan, U.S., NATO, and various non-state actors) to better mitigate this activity.
- Analyze the barriers and incentives to the development and deployment of cleaner energy technologies in India.
- Address the potential for closer U.S.-India defense cooperation based on mutual strategic interests.

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