
ZOPEAN

& The New Security Order

in the Asia-Pacific Region

BILVEER SINGH

PELANDUK PUBLICATIONS

CONTENTS

PREFACE

A New Security Order
In The Asia-Pacific Region 1

INTRODUCTION

Approaches To Regional Security
Order In Southeast Asia 3

CHAPTER 1

Clarifying The Concept Of ZOPFAN 11

CHAPTER 2

Malaysia And ZOPFAN 25

CHAPTER 3

Challenges And Problems
Confronting The ZOPFAN Proposal 69

CHAPTER 4

New Thinking On ZOPFAN 95

CHAPTER 5

ZOPFAN And The New Security Order
In The Asia-Pacific Region 103

CHAPTER 6

Conclusion 119

Select Bibliography 123

Index 135

PREFACE

A New Security Order In The Asia-Pacific Region

SINCE THE MODERN STATE began with the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, states have, in their effort to create national and regional security, used various devices, including building national power, joining alliances or adopting a policy of neutrality or armed neutrality, to safeguard their sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, one of the greatest paradoxes of modern international relations is that even though international equality is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the concept of sovereign equality, in actual fact, great inequalities and disparities exist. Hence, all the states cannot and have not been treated equally due to their different geographical, economic, social, cultural, political, psychological and power attributes. If some have attained "great power", or even "superpower" status, few have remained as "medium" powers, with many existing either as small, mini or micro powers.

The degree of differentiation exemplifying that power is a real concept even though it may be relative and relational in nature due to the various measurements it is subject to, be it economic or military. While the power position of a state is never constant, it nevertheless confirms the view that power is the fundamental touchstone of international politics, with security as its primary concern. It is this utmost concern with national security that states must adopt measures that are both in commensurate with one's interest and that would ensure its

longevity as a sovereign actor in international politics. The experience of international politics of Southeast Asia has so far proven that attempting to gain security or create regional order through alliance, such as was attempted through the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO), through neutralization, such as was attempted by Laos in 1962, or through non-alignment as was attempted by Cambodia, is bound to be inadequate or would end in dismal failure. A regional security measure which has dominated and taken up much time and thought in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN, consisting of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines) region is the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) concept.

This book will endeavour to discuss the evolution of the concept and examine the extent to which it can be reconciled with the emerging thinking and trends about a new security order in the Asia-Pacific region.