

**HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH TO  
COUNTER EXTREMISM IN SOUTH ASIA:  
RELEVANCE OF JAPANESE CULTURE**

**Edited by  
Shaheen Afroze**

South Asia long considered as a region of peace and noted for its history of tolerance, is now home to a range of extremist groups whose activities have serious implications for peace and security at individual, national, regional and international levels. The book *Human Security Approach to Counter Extremism in South Asia: Relevance of Japanese Culture*, which is a collection of 10 papers, takes a stock of synergy and conflicts in South Asian countries and explores the relevance of the still evolving concept of human security in South Asia, particularly as an approach to counter extremism. It also examines Japan's culture of peace through the human security approach as an effective mechanism to deal with the issues that generate extremism.

*See back flap*

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## Foreword

This book is an outcome of the papers presented in the International Conference on 'Human Security Approach to Counter Extremism in South Asia: Relevance of Japanese Culture' organized by BIISS with the support of Japan Foundation and held during 24-25 November 2009.

While the typology of extremist activities in South Asia is varied, extremism, however, remains as the scariest issue in South Asia. Over the past few years, extremist activities in South Asia have intensified in an alarming rate impacting the security and stability of this region. It is, therefore, imperative to examine the roots of this phenomenon and bring out appropriate response strategies that must be implemented in order to combat this modern day crisis, caused by actors, both state and non-state in nature. Such crisis manifests itself in various forms like terrorism, severe violent acts and conflicts of both low and high intensity nature etc. In brief, extremism in various forms encapsulates all the stated problems. Towards this end, the human security approach finds its proper rationale in addressing many of the problems associated with extremism in South Asia. Since Japan is one of the proponents of human security and that the country has played a pioneering role in setting up Human Security Commission under the aegis of United Nations, it was worthwhile to take into consideration the significant and positive influence of Japanese concept of peace in establishing a sustainable, effective and peace oriented human security regime in South Asia. It was this practical realization that led BIISS to take the initiative of organizing the stated international conference. It may be mentioned that BIISS had previously conducted a regional collaborative research



project titled, "Human Security in South Asia: Discourse, Practice and Policy Propositions" under the aegis of Ford Foundation, New Delhi, 2003-2006.

The participants from Bangladesh, India, Japan, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka provided many thought-provoking and insightful reflections on the thematic issues of the conference. Their learned papers along with the wealth of their knowledge and academic acumen enriched the deliberations of the conference. The present volume containing the papers of the conference would hopefully help us to understand the real challenges of extremism in South Asia and the various ways and means for meeting them in the greater interest of peace and stability in the region.

I wish to thank the authors of the papers for their erudite and insightful ideas. I express my sincere gratitude to Japan Foundation for their selfless support in organizing the conference and publishing the book. I also wish to thank Dr. Shaheen Afroze, Research Director, BIISS, for coordinating the conference and editing its proceedings in a book form.

*Major General Sheikh Md Monirul Islam*  
Director General  
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