



## Statistical Modeling of India's Defence Expenditure

Kumar Ambedkar<sup>1\*</sup> and Ashish Deepankar<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to understand and predict statistical model of India's military spending. The paper examines the influence of defense expenditure of China and Pakistan on India's military expenditure. The paper also analyses China and Pakistan's arms import of key technologies related to Air defense, Aircrafts, Missiles etc. as key factors for understanding India's defense spending. The other important factor - GDP of India is also taken as an independent variable for predicting India's military expenditure pattern. Using SPSS regression, the paper attempts to form a model having India's Military Expenditure as dependent variable and Chinese Defense expenditure, Pakistan's defense Expenditure, military import of Pakistan, Military import of China, GDP of India as independent variable. The military expenditure data of SIPRI from 1988 to 2014 has been used to predict the mathematical model of spending. The import data of Technologies is also sourced from SIPRI's trade register. India's GDP has been taken from World Bank and IMF. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is an independent international institute in Sweden, dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established on 6 May 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.

### Keywords

Military spending; Defense technology; Defence import

### Introduction

SIPRI defines military expenditure as all current and capital expenditure on the armed forces (including peace keeping forces), defense ministries and other government agencies engaged in defense projects, paramilitary forces when judged to be trained, equipped and available for military operations, military space activities etc. The expenditure can be in form of personnel salary, operations and maintenance, procurement, military research and development, military construction, military aid (in the military expenditures of the donor country) etc.

Many theories have been built to understand issues related to military spending. The significant among them are Keynesian theory of military spending, Marxian theory, Mearsheimer's theory and Kenneth Waltz Defensive Realism Theory [1-6].

The Keynesian theory explains that military spending is just a

component of public expenditure which creates a multiplier effect in the entire economy. Military expenditure generates employment, shifts demand, utilizes existing capacities and encourages private investment. Influence of military expenditure on civil sectors such as ports, roads, bridges, power, education and technology development can be understood using Keynesian perspective of defense spending. Marxian theorists also argue on similar line with slightly different viewpoint. According to this theory, by utilizing surplus labour and surplus capacities, capitalist class increases its profit, which in turn fuels consumption and investment. Interests of Monopolists groups which provide key input to defense production also get furthered by increase in defense spending. Thus, defense spending is a tool in hand of capitalist class to serve their concern.

Apart from economics related theories, there are theories based on security and defense concerns of countries which give a framework for justification of military expenditure. As per Mearsheimer's Offensive realist theory, anarchy in international system encourages the great powers to pursue hegemony and maximize military capability to ensure their survival against other states. Such pursuit among powers increases military competition resulting in enhanced defence expenditure and severe arm race. Departing from offensive realist explanation, the Defensive realism theory conceives that states follow moderate & defensive policies, and, increase their military expenditure to defend themselves in anarchic environment of international system. This theory argues that states are not intrinsically aggressive and their prime concern is not to maximize power but to sustain their position in world system.

The paper attempts to explain defence spending of India by predicting a statistical model. The case of India is very complex owing to various security and economic factors prevailing at regional and global level. India is one of fastest growing economies of world facing severe competition from China, both economically and militarily. The hostility of Pakistan and India towards each other is also well known. Terrorist threats, separatist's movements across country and boarder disputes have severely compounded the situation of India. The global trend of past few years shows that the military expenditure has witnessed minor increase in the United States and Western Europe while, it has increased considerably in in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle Eastern countries. In Asia, China continues to occupy number one position followed by India and Japan, in terms of total military expenditure. The study uses a multiple regression model to determine the factors that influences military spending of India. The study examines influence of different factors on India's military spending such as GDP of India, Defense spending of China & Pakistan, import of key military technologies by China & Pakistan.

### Gaps in Research

After reviewing available research papers on India's military spending it is found that there are no papers which have focused on predicting military spending using a statistical model. It is also found that some of the researches focused on predicting defense expenditure of India have used only economic factors such as GDP of the country and its neighbors as key factors and have completely ignored relevance of import of key military technologies such as armored vehicle, Artillery, Aircraft, Air Defense systems, missiles and

\*Corresponding author: Kumar Ambedkar, IES,SPJIMR, Mumbai, India, Tel: +91-22-2623-7454; E-mail: pgpm2016.kumar@spjimr.org

Received: September 26, 2017 Accepted: November 21, 2017 Published: November 25, 2017

naval weapon etc. in predicting India's defense expenditure. Given that India is a military technology deficit region and it primarily depends on import of these technologies from developed countries such as USA, France, Russia, and EU, it becomes imperative to consider technology import as one of the key factors to predict India's defense expenditure. The above gaps have given us the scope to come out with a statistical model which can be used to predict military spending of India. As part of the modelling all the factors which were ignored in previous research are also considered [7-11].

**About the Data**

The historical data for all the variables are taken from SIPRI<sup>1</sup>. The data is available from year 1988 to 2014. The graphs below depict the comparison of defense import data for China, India and Pakistan. As it is evident from the graph below, the defense import of India has been increasing continuously from year 1990 to 2015 due to its high dependence on import [12-14]. China, on the other hand, has been showing a steep decline in its import from mid-2000 onwards because of the growth of its indigenous manufacturing (Graph 1). Similarly, import of China, India and Pakistan with respect to country's total expenditure is depicted in the graphs below. As it can be inferred from the graph, contribution of import in country's total defense expenditure is high in case of India and Pakistan and low in case of China (Graphs 2-4).

**Model Used, Output and Analysis**

It is evident from different theories [2-6] that variables such as economic growth factors i.e. GDP, military/political factors [5-7] i.e. defense import, annual defense budget of neighboring countries/region influence a country's defense spending significantly. Below variables are identified to understand the defense spending of India (Table 1). After further observation, it is found that Central and South Asian countries defense spending is highly influenced by India's defense spending since India accounts for close to 80% to 90% of defense spending of entire south and central Asia (Figure 1). Similarly, defense spending of East Asia is majorly influenced by Defense spending of China. Below graph depicts the relation between Defense spending of central and south Asian countries with India and defense spending of East Asian countries with China (Table 2). As it is evident from the above explanation, Def\_Central & South Asia and Def\_East Asia variables are redundant, therefore of both of these variables should be removed from the final variable list. Thus, final list of variables considered for deriving the statistical model is listed as:

The statistical model is expected to produce following equation for defense spending of India:

$$DefSpending\_India = Constant + b1 \cdot DefSpending\_China + b2 \cdot DefImport\_China + b3 \cdot DefImport\_Pak + b4 \cdot DefSpending\_Pakistan + b5 \cdot GDP\_India$$

If DefSpending\_China has no influence on DefSpending\_India, "b1" the coefficient of DefSpending\_China will not take any value. On the contrary, "b1" will take a value only if; DefSpending\_China has an influence on DefSpending\_India. The hypotheses are also formed accordingly.

Null Hypothesis:  $H_0: b_1 = 0$

Alternative Hypothesis:  $H_1: b_1 \neq 0$

Similarly,

DefImport\_China does not influence DefSpending\_India significantly Null Hypothesis:  $H_0: b_2 = 0$

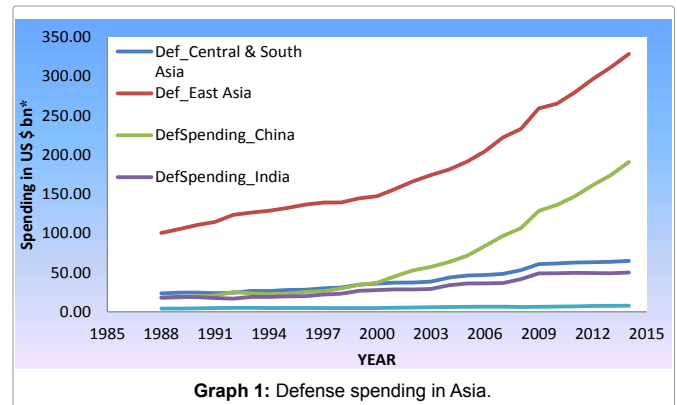
DefImport\_China does influence DefSpending\_India significantly Alternate Hypothesis:  $H_1: b_2 \neq 0$

DefImport\_Pak does not influence DefSpending\_India significantly, Null Hypothesis:  $H_0: b_3 = 0$

DefImport\_Pak does influence DefSpending\_India significantly, Alternate Hypothesis:  $H_0: b_3 \neq 0$

**Table 1:** It is evident from different theories.

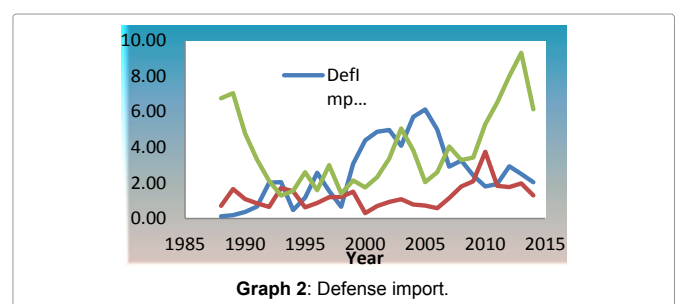
Variable	Explanation
Def_Central & South Asia	Defense spending of Central and South Asian countries
Def_East Asia	Defense spending of East Asian countries
DefSpending_China	Defense spending of China
DefSpending_India	Defense spending of India
DefSpending_Pakistan	Defense spending of Pakistan
GDP_India	GDP of India
DefImport_China	Defense Import of China
DefImport_Pak	Defense Import of Pakistan
DefImport_India	Defense Import India



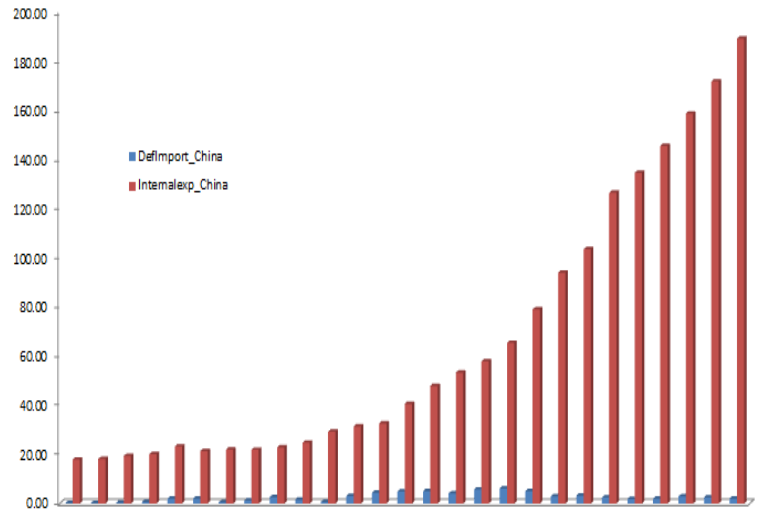
**Graph 1:** Defense spending in Asia.

**Table 2:** Final list of variables considered for deriving the statistical model is listed as below.

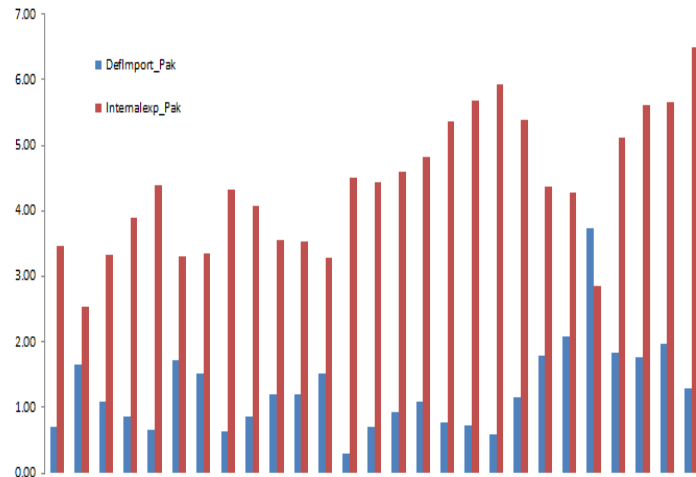
DefSpending_China	Defense spending of China
DefSpending_India	Defense spending of India
DefSpending_Pakistan	Defense spending of Pakistan
GDP_India	GDP of India
DefImport_China	Defense Import of China
DefImport_Pak	Defense Import of Pakistan
DefImport_India	Defense Import India



**Graph 2:** Defense import.



Graph 3: Import of China, India and Pakistan with respect to country's total expenditure is depicted in the graphs below.



Graph 4: As it can be inferred from the graph, contribution of import in country's total defense expenditure is high in case of India and Pakistan and low in case of China.

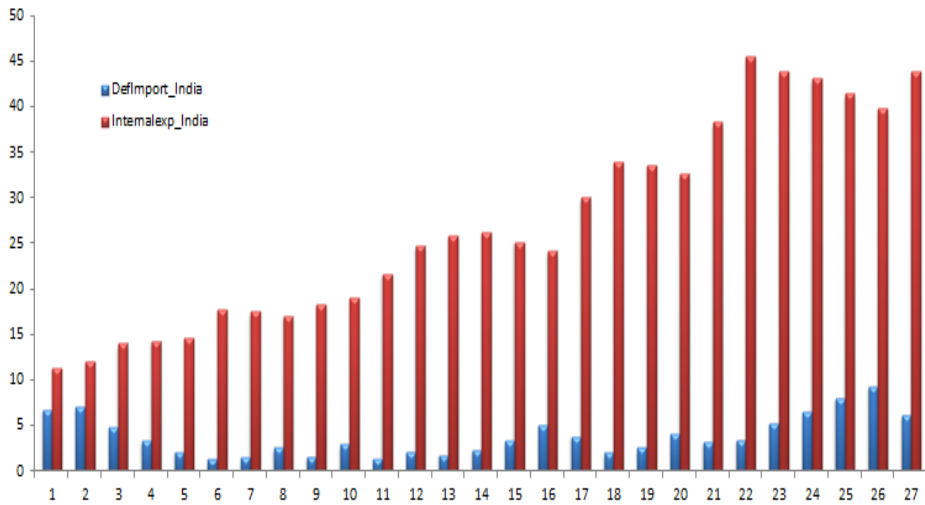


Figure 1: Defense\_India.

**Table 3:** The descriptive statistics of the data is as below.

Descriptive Statistics	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
DefSpending_India	30.90	12.087	27
DefSpending_China	68.13	54.68	27
DefSpending_Pakistan	5.64	1.06	27
GDP_India	913.82	500.33	27
DefImport_China	2.58	1.74	27
DefImport_Pak	1.27	.69	27

**Table 4:** After running stepwise regression we get five models to predict the defence spending of India. This table represents the multiple correlation analysis.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	0.967 <sup>a</sup>	0.934	0.932	3.163	
2	0.977 <sup>b</sup>	0.955	0.951	2.66	
3	0.985 <sup>c</sup>	0.970	0.966	2.24	
4	0.988 <sup>d</sup>	0.976	0.971	2.05	
5	0.990 <sup>e</sup>	0.980	0.976	1.88	1.873

**Table 5:** It is also observed that value of R square is 0.980 & adjusted R square is 0.976, thus having little difference, thus available data is adequate to explain the behavior.

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
5	Total	3798.520	26			
	Regression	3724.116	5	744.823	210.220	0.000 <sup>f</sup>
	Residual	74.404	21	3.543		
	Total	3798.520	26			

DefSpending\_Pakistan does not influence DefSpending\_India significantly Null Hypothesis:  $H_0: b_4 = 0$

DefSpending\_Pakistan does influence DefSpending\_India significantly Alternate Hypothesis:  $H_1: b_4 \neq 0$

GDP\_India does not influence DefSpending\_India significantly Null Hypothesis:  $H_0: b_5 = 0$

GDP\_India does influence DefSpending\_India significantly Alternate Hypothesis:  $H_1: b_5 \neq 0$

IBM SPSS is used as the tool to derive the regression model.

Following are the results of the stepwise regression:

The descriptive statistics of the data is as below

Predictors: (Constant), DefSpending\_China

Predictors: (Constant), DefSpending\_China, DefImport\_China

Predictors: (Constant), DefSpending\_China, DefImport\_China, DefImport\_Pak

Predictors: (Constant), DefSpending\_China, DefImport\_China, DefImport\_Pak, DefSpending\_Pakistan

Predictors: (Constant), DefSpending\_China, DefImport\_China, DefImport\_Pak, DefSpending\_Pakistan, GDP\_India

Dependent Variable: DefSpending\_India

After running stepwise regression we get five models to predict the Defense spending of India. This table represents the Multiple Correlation Analysis. The "R" value of 0.990 is the multiple correlation of DefSpending\_India (the dependent variable) with the weighted aggregate of five Predictors (Independent variables). In Model 1 only Defense expenditure of China- DefSpending\_China enters the model to predict (Tables 3 and 4). The variability in spending of India.

DefSpending\_China predicts 93.4 percent variability of Spending of India. Model 2 has DefSpending\_China and DefImport\_China as independent Variable and it describes 95.5 percent of spending pattern. Model 3 & 4 successfully explains 97 Percent & 97.6 percent variation in dependent variable. Finally, the model 5 has DefSpending\_China, DefImport\_China, DefImport\_Pak; DefSpending\_Pakistan & GDP\_India as independent variable and these variables together explains 98 percent variability of dependent variable which is DefSpending\_India (Tables 5 and 6). It is also observed that value of R Square is 0.980 & Adjusted R Square is 0.976, thus having little difference, thus available data is adequate to explain the behavior. The ratio of Mean Square Regression (Explained) and Mean Square of Residual (Unexplained) is 210.22. Further, as this value is highly significant (p-value = 0.000), we can infer that the independent variables taken together are highly influential. The coefficients of predicted model are taken from the Table 3. As the significance of the constant term under unstandardized coefficients is high (i.e., Sig. = 0.003), the Unstandardized coefficients are used to form the model. Also, DefSpending\_China, DefImport\_China, DefImport\_Pak, DefSpending\_Pakistan, GDP\_India significantly affect the dependent variable- DefSpending\_India and, thus all the Null hypothesis is rejected significantly (Figures 2 and 3).

The final regression equations can be formed as follows:

$$\text{DefSpending\_India} = 22.656 + 0.149 \text{DefSpending\_China} + 2012.0 \times \text{DefImportChina} + 2.236 \text{Def Import\_Pak} + 3.681 \times \text{DefSpending\_Pak} + 0.012 \times \text{GDP}$$

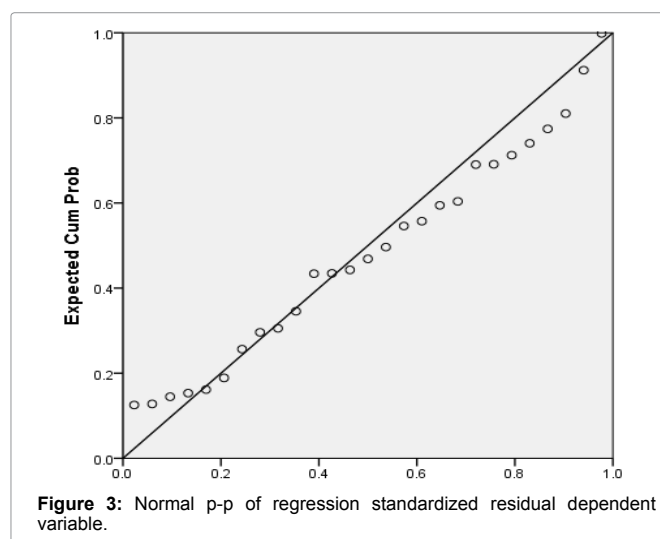
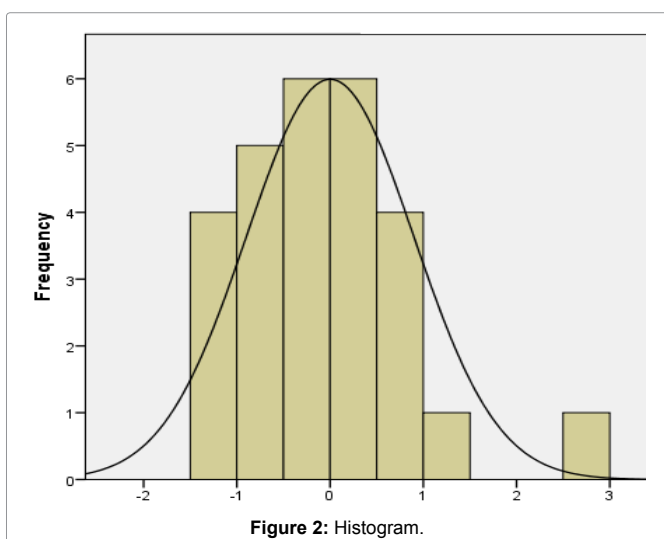
### Conclusion

It is clearly evident from analysis that defence expenditure of India depends upon a number of economic, military and security factors. Regression equation reveals that India's defence spending is

Table 6: Dependent variable: DefSpending\_India.

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta		
5	(Constant)	22.656	6.846		3.309	.003
	DefSpending_China	0.149	0.056	0.673	2.658	0.015
	DefImport_China	2.120	0.312	0.306	6.785	0.000
	DefImport_Pak	2.236	0.725	0.128	3.085	0.006
	DefSpending_Pakistan	-3.681	1.528	0.324	-2.409	0.025
	GDP_India	0.012	0.005	0.479	2.271	0.034

a. Dependent Variable: DefSpending\_India



significantly influenced by Chinese security expenditure. However, it is also beautifully depicted that defence expenditure of India is not centered on Pakistan. The negative correlation with Pakistan defence expenditure unambiguously reinforces such notion. Undoubtedly, India perceives China as its competitor and centres its military preparedness around it. Further, it is important to note that arms import of both these countries, China as well as Pakistan, is a strong predictor of India's defence outlay pattern. This is very much understandable. Being a defence technology deficit region, all these countries depend on import of critical technology for strengthening their military might. Thus, it is obvious that arms import by China and Pakistan compels India to do the same, resulting in an increase of its military budget. The findings reinforce the fact that Indian defence spending follows both Mearsheimer's Offensive realist theory [6] and Kenneth Waltz Defensive Realism Theory [7] which argues that states possess offensive/defensive military capabilities to maintain their survival against hostile states. Apart from military/security concerns, economic rise of India has also contributed towards swelling of its arms budget. Positive correlation between Gross Domestic Product and defence expenditure clearly supports this claim. Obviously, defence spending is a component of public expenditure that is creating a multiplier effect in the economy of this country. Finally, it can be concluded that India's military spending cannot be explained by any specific theory but through a complex combination of Keynesian, Marxism [4], Mearsheimer's Offensive Realist and Kenneth Waltz Defensive Realism theories. The graph above plots Residuals versus Predicted DefStanding\_India data. The application of Multiple Regression on a set of data is based

on an assumption that states that the residuals are normally distributed at each level of DefStanding\_India. The plot, as one can see above, is normal. Hence, the assumption holds good in this case. Normal P-P Plot of Regression Standardized Residual Values helps us understand Heteroscedasticity. The values are expected to either coincide or be very close to the reference line. The above plot would indicate very minor deviations of the expected values from the observed values of the dependent variable.

**References**

1. Trends In International Arms Transfers (2017) SIPRI Fact Sheet.
2. Dunne JP (2011) Military Keynesianism: An assessment.
3. Hatice KÇ (2009) A theoretical glance at military expenditures. *Econ Res* 22: 118-127.
4. Tom R (1986) Marxism on military expenditure
5. Dunne JP, Smith R, Willenbockel D (2004) Models of military expenditure and growth: A critical review. *Def Peace Econ* 16: 449-461.
6. Steinsson S (2014) John Mearsheimer's theory of offensive realism and the rise of China. *Int Reln Students*
7. Kenneth WN, Graw H (1979) Theory of international politics.
8. Sibal K (2015) India's external security environment and its impact on Indian Defence.
9. Misra V (2015) Core concerns in Indian defence and the imperatives for reforms.
10. Marwah V (2003) India's internal security challenges. *India's Int Sec Challenges* 27: 503-515.

11. Subramanyam K (2013) India's National Security-Challenges and priorities.
12. Atesoglu HS (2013) Economic growth and military spending in china implications for international security. Int J Pol Econ 42: 88-100.
13. Sheikh MR (2014) Defense expenditures and economic growth in Pakistan and India: An augmented feder-type model. 9: 176-197.
14. Tow WT, Stuart DT (1981) China's military turns to the west. Int Affairs 57: 286-300.

### Author Affiliation

[Top](#)

<sup>1</sup>SPJIMR, Mumbai, India

<sup>2</sup>PWC, India

### Submit your next manuscript and get advantages of SciTechnol submissions

- ❖ 80 Journals
- ❖ 21 Day rapid review process
- ❖ 3000 Editorial team
- ❖ 5 Million readers
- ❖ More than 5000 
- ❖ Quality and quick review processing through Editorial Manager System

Submit your next manuscript at • [www.scitechnol.com/submission](http://www.scitechnol.com/submission)