

**Abolition of Nuclear Weapons –Political Apathy** by Admiral L Ramdas, Former Chief of the Indian Navy, Maharashtra, India. **Abstract:** During the Cold War period India took a principled stand to encourage countries to work towards nuclear disarmament. The exact opposite has occurred, with more and more countries developing Nuclear Weapons. India broke from its policy by conducting the nuclear tests at Pokhran on May 11, 1998. Pakistan followed suit on May 28, 1998. In addition to the five Nuclear Weapon States, India and Pakistan; Israel and North Korea are also believed to possess these weapons. North Korea's emergence as a nuclear state has had a serious impact on Japanese thinking regarding nuclear weapons. Many other countries including Brazil, Egypt, Iran, and Australia are reviewing their nuclear weapons policies as well. Efforts by many non-nuclear weapon states to persuade Nuclear Weapon States to disarm, in accordance with Art 6 of the NPT, have failed. The situation is complicated by each Nuclear Weapon State having its own nuclear doctrine, which can give rise to grave misunderstandings. Also, the need to analyze the implications of militant groups gaining access to nuclear weapons has become urgent. This Paper examines potential roles for all nuclear weapon countries, and a select few non-nuclear states, to evolve a workable, non-discriminatory safety regime which will ultimately lead to complete disarmament. There is very little chance for nuclear disarmament if we continue to use the conventional approach. The international community needs to create a nuclear weapons management regime which will reduce, if not totally eradicate, the horrors of yet another nuclear war or accident. A few years of such a regime should pave the way for complete and total nuclear disarmament.