

Maritime Security

Challenges & Responses in a Changing World

Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao (retd)



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Challenges and Responses in a Changing World

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Reviews

“The author’s years of experience in naval operations have translated into an aspiration to focus much-needed attention on maritime security matters. Safeguarding this part of the world has never been easy. The nature of international conflicts, illegal activities at sea, and even environmental issues continue to hinder the authorities. In this scenario, strong political will and focused strategies are needed. Admiral Iftikhar has narrated all these issues in a simple manner, allowing the readers to comprehend and realize how important it is to collaborate and combine initiatives to protect our maritime interests. Although the main focus is Pakistan’s maritime sphere of influence, the flow of the narration on contemporary maritime securities and comparative strategies would keep the readers engaged till the last page.”

– **First Admiral Ahmad Shafirudin Abu Bakar**
Royal Malaysian Navy

“Maritime security is a vast and dynamic subject area. There are threats to maritime security from state vs. state strategic competition and non-state criminal activities. The world depends on seaborne trade as the oceans carry 90 percent of internationally traded goods. There are various international instruments to ensure safety and security at sea. However, the coastal and flag states, shipping companies, and ocean resource exploiters need to commit more to strict compliance. The world needs to be united in its efforts internationally and regionally and work more collaboratively to ensure the maritime domain remains safe. This book is an excellent contribution for maritime security practitioners and academia alike. It’s a must-read to understand the complexities of maritime security from different perspectives with a look at the historical and geographical factors impacting maritime security.”

– **Admiral Dr. Jayanath Colombage (retd)**
Former Chief of Sri Lanka Navy, Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary of Sri Lanka to Indonesia and ASEAN

“It is a truly comprehensive book that covers all aspects of maritime security. It takes an in-depth look at various challenges and responses along with economic and military aspects of maritime security prevalent around the globe. Anybody interested in the subject matter – not just scholars, academics, and policymakers – will find the book a compelling read. It takes the reader back to the earliest maritime initiatives and updates him about the situation in our globalized world. This voyage provides insights into the affairs of the seas and oceans and the wrongs that have, and are, being done, such as piracy, all types of trafficking, illegal fishing, pollution, and marine terrorism. The book also covers the security response and efforts to make things right by enforcing laws and regulations individually and collectively by the world’s countries.”

– **Rear Admiral Fahad al-Kayal (retd)**

Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Eastern Command
(2005-2007)

“This book excels as a fine and incisive reference material on maritime military and economic securities stemming from the author’s experience in naval operations and expertise in the blue economy, as evident from his first book, *Elements of Blue Economy*. He has presented, in one volume, almost everything there is to know about contemporary strategies relating to the two forms of maritime security, drawing from the practices of selected global naval powers of the European Union, UK, and US, as well as the regional naval powers of China, India, and Pakistan. Pakistan’s maritime military and maritime economic securities have been particularly discussed as a credible guide and reference for developing countries’ navies and comparison with those of developed countries.”

– **Rear Admiral Sunday Daniel Atakpa**

Naval Training Command, Nigerian Navy

“This book has the distinction of being the first of its kind on the subject by a Pakistani mariner. It is an attempt to put an array of threats and challenges to maritime security under the magnifying glass, which includes but is not limited to piracy, poaching,

pollution, human and drug trafficking, unregulated fishing, terrorism, natural disasters, smuggling of goods, and organized crimes. Recognizing the new security landscape, the author examines the security paradigms of the world's leading navies, including the aggressive posture adopted by the Indian Navy and the positive role played by the Pakistan Navy in improving maritime security in the Indian Ocean. The book ends with the author's suggestions on how to improve the structures that govern maritime security and how to enhance cooperation through better allocation of resources. Finally, there is not an ounce of doubt that this is a thumping good read for mariners, policymakers, students, and academics associated with the maritime domain."

– **Vice Admiral Waseem Akram HI (M), S.Bt (retd)**
Formerly Commander Coast, PN, DG, Pakistan Maritime
Security Agency, and Ambassador to Maldives

"Admiral Rao is at his best in his third book, a work of absolute meticulousness, dedicated examination, and deep reflection. It explicates the various nuances of the maritime security paradigm of global powers and the strategic and economic maritime challenges confronting Pakistan, in addition to narrating historical contexts regarding the volatility surrounding our seas. Comprehensive, well-researched, experiential, incisive, lucid, gripping, and illustrative, Rao's latest work is a prodigious contribution to the existing discourse on the subject and is strongly recommended for policymakers, students, and academics of maritime security."

– **Ambassador (r) Nadeem Riyaz**
President, Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad

"This book is an excellent overview of almost all present security subjects in maritime affairs, from piracy to human trafficking, drug smuggling, environmental challenges to marine life, and a discussion on illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. The second part of the book discusses the challenges to maritime security from the military aspect. It also explains the maritime security paradigms and the development of strategic approaches of world maritime powers. The book details the aggressive naval

strategies in Pakistan's neighborhood, especially Indian designs in the Indian Ocean Region. It then deliberates on Pakistan's maritime security challenges both from economic and military angles. The book aims to serve the nation and the Pakistan Navy as a marker in opening people to the awareness of the maritime field and the great challenges therein. The author suggests a strategic setup for policy implementation by the naval forces. The proposed strategy focuses on cooperation, pragmatism, and professionalism rather than aggression."

– **Dr. Shaista Tabassum**

Professor of International Relations, Dean, Faculty of Arts &
Social Sciences, University of Karachi

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