


# Non-violent compellence plays to India's strength, Pak's weakness

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An Indian army helicopter flies over the army base in Uri / AP file photo

Bengaluru: As tensions escalate between India and Pakistan as fallout to the terror strike on army camp in Uri, a well-timed book authored by George Perkovich and Toby Dalton, associated with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, has hit the stands.

The book -- Not war, not peace? Motivating Pakistan to prevent cross-border terrorism -- is armed with many references taken from well-authored articles and newspaper reports that highlight India's military might and shortcomings. The authors have tried hard to put across new strategies to tackle cross-border terrorism targeted at India.

"Even if army-centric operations against Pakistan are implausible to compel the Pakistani security establishment to demobilize anti-Indian terrorist groups, such operations could satisfy a domestic Indian desire to punish Pakistan," says the authors.

Interestingly, the book has come out at a time when a host of military experts are debating over a possible response that India should give for Pakistan's oft-repeated cross-border strikes through sponsored terror outfits.

"History teaches that not all problems have solutions, or that people often will not pursue solutions because it seems easier to live with familiar problems. There are no clear solutions that India can unilaterally pursue to end the threat of violence from Pakistan. Some are more or less likely to be effective at greater or lesser risk and cost to India. But, only a combination of Indian coercive and non-violent policies and capabilities, paired with a willingness to bargain,

can motivate Pakistan to remove the threat of violence,” says the book, priced at Rs 695 and published by Oxford University Press.



An Indian soldier positioned near a military base at Braripora/ AP file photo

George Perkovich has worked for three decades on nuclear strategy and security issues in South Asia, while Toby Dalton has served in a variety of positions at the US Department of Energy.

Agreeing to India’s visible non-violent stand, despite being targeted through various forms of terror attacks by Pakistan-sponsored groups, the authors hoped that India developed 21st century modes of operation and communication practices.

“Non-violent compellence is a ‘softer’ means of motivating Pakistan than violent covert operations or conventional war. It may there be unattractive from the standpoint of Indian domestic politics. However, it also carries few costs and no risk of escalation. Unlike most military options, it plays to India’s strength and Pakistan’s weakness,” says the book in the concluding part.

The National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, is holding a discussion on the book on September 28 to be attended by a host of military brains and researchers.