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ABSTRACT

The study sought to assess the US role in Sino-Indian maritime rivalry and make recommendations of courses of action to senior policymakers. The study was conducted through research of contemporary literature and by comparing the scholarly recommendations for the current military situation in the IOR. Emphasis was placed on military and diplomatic relationships between India, China, and the United States of America. Data collection included primary and secondary sources. That data collected was analysed in a qualitative fashion using the theory of offensive realism while considering current US defence policy. Research findings indicate that there exists a genesis of rivalry in the IOR between India and China and highlights the strategies of these two countries to gain dominance. Furthermore, the study highlights these strategies through the lens of offensive realism. Moreover, the study concludes by recommending the US reduce its diplomatic efforts in the IOR and replace those efforts with naval expansion.

Keywords: Indian Ocean region, Maritime Rivalry, Chinese Maritime Strategy, Indian Maritime Strategy, Commerce in the Indian Ocean, Aircraft Carriers

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