The Indian Nuclear Programme in the Context of the Typology of Proliferation Models Developed by Scott D. Sagan

The aim of this article is to present the Indian nuclear programme in terms of the typology of nuclear proliferation models proposed by Scott D. Sagan. This typology includes three models: security, internal policy and standards. Sagan presents the nuclear programme, which was completed by a test in 1974 (then it did not lead to the acquisition of operational nuclear weapons by India), as an example of the model of internal policies. The author, however, focuses on the processes that took place two decades later. He analyses the situation of the 90s and a number of phenomena which culminated in a series of nuclear tests in 1998. The author argues that those processes to the greatest extent can be described using the model of standards which emphasizes the symbolic importance of nuclear weapons.

Keywords: proliferation, nuclear programme, international order