

# The Stability Instability Paradox: How Nuclear Weapons Incentivize Irregular Warfare

## Description

**Disclaimer:** Episode 115 is a re-release of our original Episode 96, which explored the 1999 Kargil Conflict and its implications for irregular warfare in South Asia. Due to an unfortunate data corruption issue with our original file, we are re-publishing this important discussion. The content remains as relevant and insightful as when it first aired, featuring our distinguished guests Professor Sumit Ganguly and Professor Tricia Bacon.

Our guests kick off by exploring the regional security dynamics germane to South Asia. They delve into the impact of nuclear weapons on fostering irregular warfare strategies, highlighting the specific ways in which the acquisition of nuclear capabilities by India and Pakistan has reshaped their relationship. This shift has driven Pakistan towards a heightened dependence on proxy forces to achieve its political objectives. The discussion culminates in a focused analysis of the bilateral relationship between New Delhi and Islamabad, offering a clear and insightful perspective on the evolving dynamics between the two nations.

[Professor Sumit Ganguly](#) is a specialist on the contemporary politics of South Asia and a distinguished professor of political science at Indiana University. He currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Studies Review*, and in 2019, Professor Ganguly authored a *Foreign Affairs* article entitled, [“Why the India-Pakistan Crisis Isn’t Likely to Turn Nuclear,”](#) which serves as the anchor for episode 96.

[Professor Tricia Bacon](#) is an Associate Professor at American University’s School of Public Affairs. Prior to teaching at American, Professor Bacon worked on counterterrorism for over ten years at the Department of State, including in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the Bureau of Counterterrorism, and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. Her work on counterterrorism in the intelligence community has received numerous accolades.

[Ben Jebb](#) and [Matt Moellering](#) are the hosts for this episode. Please reach out to Ben and Matt with any questions about this episode or the Irregular Warfare Podcast.

The [Irregular Warfare Podcast](#) is a production of the [Irregular Warfare Initiative](#) (IWI). We are a team of volunteers dedicated to bridging the gap between scholars and practitioners in the field of irregular warfare. IWI generates written and audio content, coordinates events for the IW community, and hosts critical thinkers in the field of irregular warfare as IWI fellows. You can follow and engage with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

Subscribe to our monthly [newsletter](#) for access to our written content, upcoming community events, and other resources.

**Date Created**

2024/10/03