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# **Radicals' Influx into Border Areas Impact on Inter-state Relations in South Asia**

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## **Abstract**

South Asia is in the grip of an assortment of conflicts, ranging from territorial claims and other inter-state conflicts to internal insurgencies and separatist movements. The main conflicts in South Asia have centered on the states' borders and have led to the emergence of cross-border networks of separatist and insurgent movements. Initially seen as a reaction to political, social, and economic deprivations, most of these movements have absorbed radical and extremist ideologies—both Islamist and leftist—mainly on account of the states' internal weaknesses and the protracted nature of border disputes. Radicalization is now also spreading to the border regions where such movements were earlier absent, which could have grave implications for the ties between bordering states. The states in South Asia generally lack confidence in each other to form joint mechanisms to counter common threats. This paper suggests that a regional approach is indispensable to deal with the growing threat of radicalization along the international borders in South Asia.

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