

**MULTIPLE INTERVENTIONS IN THE POST WAR PEACE BUILDING  
IN SRI LANKA; ANALYZING THE MODE AND EFFECTS OF  
“TRIANGULAR INVOLVEMENT” BY INDIA, JAPAN AND CHINA**

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Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict and its resolution had drawn series of external interventions right from the beginning dating back to early 1980s. Power mediation by India in the conflict in the late 1980s was the first such instance of external intervention aimed at the conflict resolution whereby India attempted to solve the conflict to its favour (Pinnawala, 1993; Greenberg, 1986). Later in 2000s, some other countries such as Britain, Norway, USA, Japan and EU got involved in the conflict with the aim of bringing peace to the Island (Helegesen 2003; Samaranayake 2006; Silva 2002). The striking feature of all these late interventions is that they occurred either on individual basis or a concerted and cooperative manner in which the goal of both single and multiple interveners was conflict management and resolution. However, the external involvement in the post war situation of Sri Lanka, which emerged in 2009 following the military defeat of the LTTE at the hands of GoSL, posits a contrasting picture from the previous cases of intervention for three-fold reasons; First, the post war situation in Sri Lanka is an outcome of zero-sum ending of the military conflict between Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE) in which the former had emerged as the sole victor and thus gaining a position to be able to unilaterally dictate the terms of peace. Second is the profile of the intervening powers. Third is the manner in which the involvement takes place. This divergent scenario of external involvement in Sri Lanka in relation to conflict and its resolution posits a puzzle of what particular mode by which the multiple external involvement in the post war peace building has taken place, and its effects on the larger process of devolution and reconciliation. To analyze and understand this complex phenomenon, data and evidence generated through the use of Process Tracing techniques were subjected to systematic treatment against the hypothesis of existence of triangular form of involvement which results in actions and counter actions by the involvers, and slow down of the pace of the peace building process. Findings of the study show that there exists the triangular form of involvement by India, China and Japan in the post war peace building in Sri Lanka which while strengthens the GoSL's position on the terms of peace, slows down the pace of the peace building process as a whole.