

## **Contents**

### **Introduction**

A. Statement of Problem .....	3
B. Review of the existing literature.....	4
C. Research Gap .....	7
D. Research Question.....	8
E. Significance of the study .....	8
F. Theoretical Framework .....	9
G. Research Methodology.....	18
H. Research Objectives .....	20
I. I. Hypotheses.....	21
J. Limitations and Delimitations of the Study .....	21
K. Organization of Chapters .....	22

### **Chapter1**

#### **Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific Region: Strategic Significance and Security Challenges**

1.1 Introduction.....	24
1.2 Defining the Indo-Pacific .....	29
1.3 The Characteristic of Indo-Pacific Region .....	35
1.4 Defining maritime security.....	37
1.5 The maritime security challenges in the Indo- Pacific.....	42
1.6 Minilaterals in Indo-Pacific.....	47
1.7 Conclusion .....	55

## **Chapter 2**

### **Imperative and Drivers in the Trilaterals**

2.1 Introduction.....	57
2.2 Explaining the Rise of Mini-Trilaterals in the Indo-Pacific: prospect for Cooperation.....	55
2.3 Constituting the Indo-Pacific.....	69
2.3a Japan and the confluence of the two seas .....	70
2.3b The U.S. and the free and open Indo-Pacific .....	74
2.3c India's Look East to Act East Policy .....	80
2.4 Identifying the contours of Converging Bilateral traits in the Indo-Pacific among India, Japan, and the USA .....	85
2.5 Conclusion .....	96

## **Chapter 3**

### **China's Responses and Engagement in the Indo-Pacific**

3.1 Introduction.....	98
3.2 China's Maritime Strategy .....	99
3.3 Understanding China's view on Indo-Pacific .....	103
3.4 China through the traps .....	109
3.5 China's geopolitical engagement in the Indo- Pacific .....	111
3.5a South China Sea .....	111
3.5b Pacific Ocean .....	120
3.5c Indian Ocean .....	121
3.6 China's geoeconomics engagement in the Indo- Pacific.....	126
3.7 Conclusion.....	131

## **Chapter 4**

### **India-Japan-US trilateralism: Emerging Indo-Pacific Consensus**

4.1 Introduction .....	133
4.2 Defining Strategic Partnership .....	135
4.3 The Troika: United States, Japan, and India .....	139
4.4 Ripples on The Oceans: The Malabar Exercise .....	148
4.5 Analyzing the Trilateral Convergences in the Indo-Pacific .....	176
4.6 Conclusion .....	186

## **Chapter 5**

### **The emerging divergences in the India- Japan- US relations**

5.1 Introduction.....	188
5.2. Evaluating the Spatiality of Indo-Pacific.....	189
5.3 Challenges and Divergences in the trilateral cooperation.....	199
5.4 Conclusion .....	205

## **Chapter 6**

Conclusion .....	206
Review of the Study.....	207
Research Outcomes.....	212
Recommendations.....	221
Areas for Further Study.....	223
Bibliography .....	i-xxxviii