

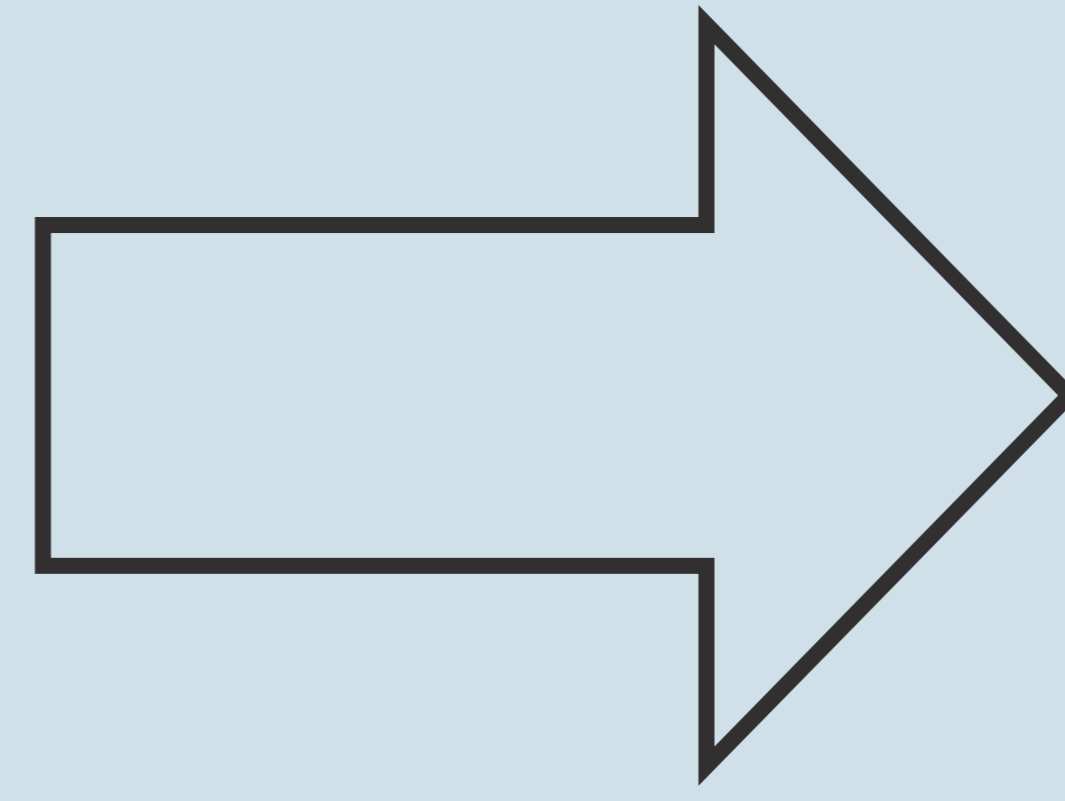
IDEATIONAL SOURCES OF NONPROLIFERATION POLICY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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QUESTION

Countries in the Global South, particularly the three large democracies – India, Brazil, and South Africa – have been historically strong opponents of nuclear weapons and command an important voice of the nonproliferation regime. Such **enthusiasm for the nonproliferation** has been contrasted with a strong **opposition towards proposals** how **strengthen the regime**, as well as a **lukewarm attitude towards Iran’s nuclear program**.

This position was surprising for Western diplomats and remains counterintuitive for academic analysts.



EXPLANATION: IDEAS!

- ⇒ ambiguous material incentives: states can choose from multiple equally possible paths
- ⇒ ideational frameworks influence how leaders respond to material incentives
- ⇒ ideas originate in **historical experiences, socialization, and self-perception**
- ⇒ sometimes conflicting, and contradictory. Prioritization happens.
- ⇒ provide heuristic to leaders to solve complex policy puzzles in ways that “make sense”



**Mbeki takes swipe
at world’s bullies**

BRAZIL

- POLICY**
- ⇒ no new obligations; support the rights of NNWS
 - ⇒ loathe to alienate anyone, mediator

- IDEAS**
- ⇒ status-seeking
 - ⇒ nonintervention

INDIA

- ⇒ opposed to nukes, but wants to have them as long as they exist
- ⇒ “muddling through” on Iran

- ⇒ India’s development should not be endangered
- ⇒ hedging in uncertain geopolitical environment

SOUTH AFRICA

- ⇒ supports rights of NNWS
- ⇒ “softly, softly” on Iran

- ⇒ West oppresses the weak, SA attempts to counter that
- ⇒ obsession with negotiations as a strategy

WHY DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT NONPROLIFERATION?

- ⇒ Seen from the Global South, global liberal peace is not the rule
- ⇒ Nonproliferation **just a part of global governance**; where struggle is the order of the day
- ⇒ Different preferences, different interpretation
- ⇒ **Different historical experiences**, different ideational frameworks
- ⇒ Iran is about setting the rules for the future, **future is what matters** for leaders in IBSA

FURTHER INFORMATION

Iran's Nuclear Program and the Global South: The Foreign Policy of India, Brazil, and South Africa
(Palgrave, forthcoming in 2015)

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[2] Reuters (2008)

[3] The Star (2004, February 18)