



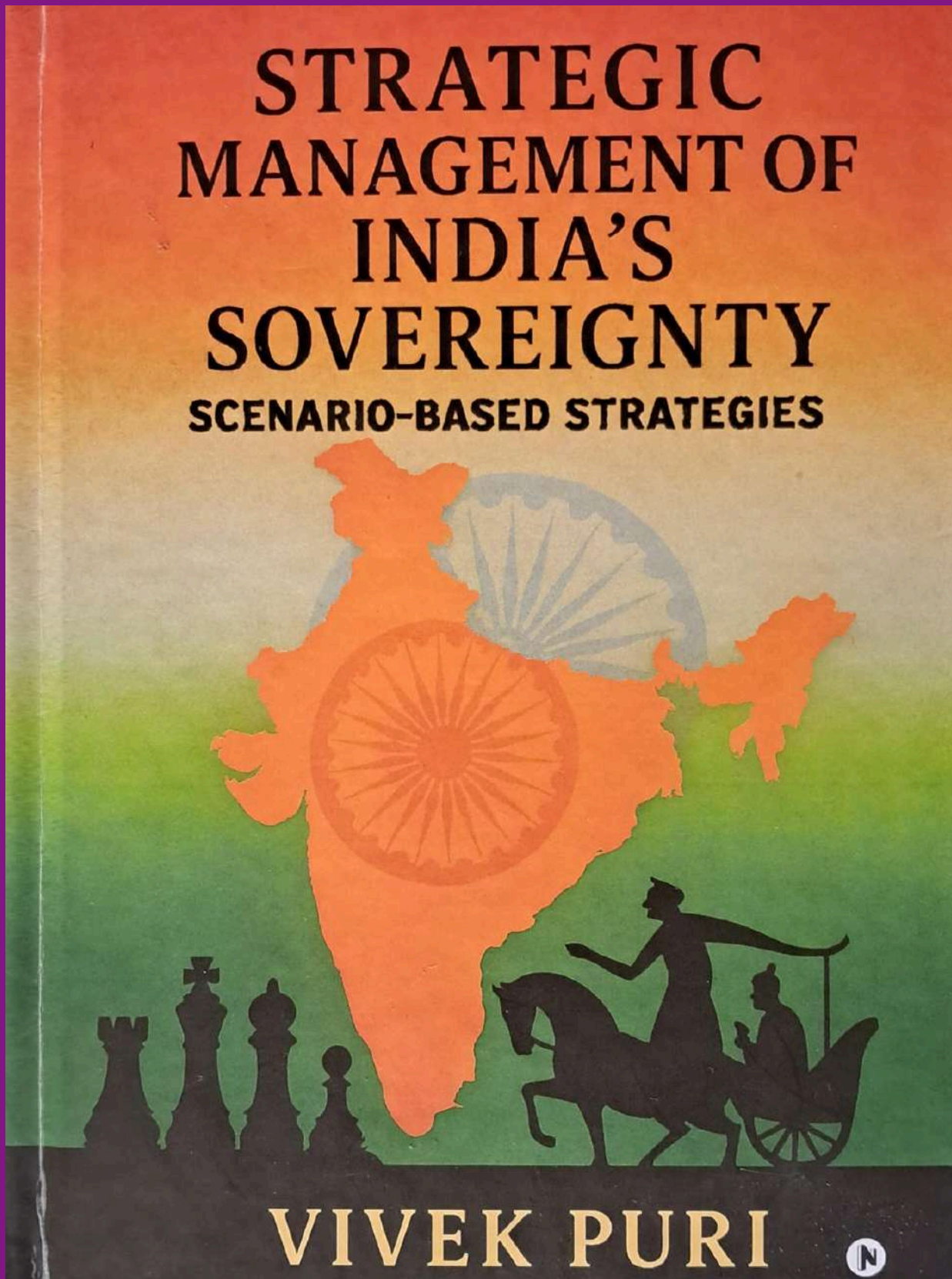
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BOOK REVIEW

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**Strategic Management of India's Sovereignty-Scenario Based
Strategies**

by Vivek Puri



There are books that inform, and there are books that reframe. Brigadier Vivek Puri's debut work belongs firmly to the second category. Adapted from his doctoral research in Management and refined through years at the College of Defence Management, Hyderabad, this book is a rare specimen in Indian strategic literature one that refuses to choose between rigour and accessibility, or between ancient wisdom and modern method.

What the Book Sets Out to Do

The Central premise is deceptively simple: India's nation-state is treated as an organisation operating in a VUCA environment, with sovereignty as its most fundamental competitive advantage one that remains structurally compromised. Roughly 78,000 sq. km. under Pakistani occupation, 38,000 sq. km. under Chinese occupation, and an additional 5,180 sq. km. illegally ceded to China under the 1963 Boundary Agreement are not historical footnotes. They are active lesions on India's strategic posture. The book asks two driving questions is reintegration desirable, and is it feasible and answers them through structured analysis rather than nationalist reflex.

Methodological Architecture

This is where the book genuinely distinguishes itself. Puri employs MICMAC for structural analysis of Key Decision Factors, MACTOR for actor-strategy mapping, and Morphological Analysis for scenario logic selection. The resulting scenarios Best Case, Status Quo, Worst Case, and Wild Card are mapped to a five-layer strategy framework spanning Core, Basic, Contingency, Environment-Shaping, and Hedging strategies. Beneath this modern apparatus sits a substantive Kautilyan foundation, drawing from the Arthashastra and Nitisara integrating the Saptanga framework, Matsyanyaya, and Vyasana into the analytical architecture. This is not decorative. It is load-bearing.

For the Wargamer and Intelligence Analyst

This book is unusually well-suited for both communities. For wargame designers, the scenario matrix covering 2025-2035 across diplomatic, military, economic, and environmental dimensions is a ready-made scenario universe. The Wild Card framework, which calls for a dedicated team generating normally unthinkable events outside the primary scenario space, maps directly onto Red Team methodology. For intelligence analysts, the KDF tables with explicit impact and uncertainty scoring read like a structured analytic technique template. The scenario implications tables covering security costs, economic isolation, proxy warfare, and regional instability across India, regional, and global levels read like a finished strategic estimate product.

The postscript chapter on Operation Sindoor as a case of controlled escalation management confirms the framework holds against current operational reality.

Critical Notes

Readers unfamiliar with the Arthashastra may need supplementary reading to fully absorb the Kautilyan sections, which the author has duly provided in the last sections of his book.

Verdict

'Strategic Management of India's Sovereignty' occupies a genuine gap methodologically serious, intellectually honest, and practically applicable. It is not policy advocacy. It is something more valuable: a structured thinking framework for one of India's most enduring strategic problems. In a domain dominated by either polemical op-eds or impenetrable academic prose, Puri has written something that thinks clearly, cites honestly, and asks the right questions with the credibility of someone who has lived them.

For analysts, scenario planners, wargame developers, and students of Indian strategic thought this belongs on the working desk, not the bookshelf.

Reviewed by
Mr Dhruva Shaw
Technical Research Assistant
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