

Socio-Economic and Political Shift in Asia with Emphasis on Foreign Policies of India: An Analysis

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ABSTRACT:

The research paper revolved around the socio-economic and political situation of the Asian Countries, the prime focus of the project is to convey the reader that how the situation get modernized in prime countries like Japan India and China who has developed themselves from the conservative mindset to become modernized countries of the present era. The projects also conveyed about inter regional and intra regional political system with special emphasis on the nationalism of different Asian countries.

The project also revolves around the foreign policies of India and how they are interconnected for the growth of Asian countries. India has a very great impact on the development of the Asian Countries but there are some problems that we faced regarding the Kashmir Issue and some problem in Indo-china relations which is also a obstacle of the development. The project also discussed the imperialism and communism in Asian countries.

Keywords: Nationalism in Asia, Inter-regional politics, intra-regional politics, foreign policies of India, Cultural currents, impact of west.

I. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method of research opted by me in this Research Paper was doctrinal research from both primary and secondary sources. Majority of research work has been done via Articles, Journals and research papers available in online databases. Other sources like various works by learned authors have also been referred to.

The major portion of the Assignment consists of articles and their analysis because the subject has relevant portion only with the articles, rarely books are available on the topic and it is a theory-based subject so non doctrinal research work is not possible.

II. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

- The project has laid emphasis on social situations of Asian countries and how they changed from World War I to the present day.
- The project includes interregional and intraregional political situations of different Asian countries and explains how they tackled the distress which arose from the political situations.

- The project has laid emphasis on India, and its relations with South Asia and South-East Asia.
- The project pays special attention to the foreign policies of India regarding its neighbours.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-

- To understand the social setup of different Asian countries.
- To understand the relations of India with reference to South Asian countries.
- To get to know the importance of foreign policies.
- To know the impact of interregional and intraregional politics.

IV. INTRODUCTION

Much of the Asia is the process of emerging into modern era and of establishing an entirely new pattern of relations with the rest of the world. There has been, as our former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru emphasized, *“A certain historic change in the relationship of forces in Asia”* Declining colonialism and rising nationalism are symptomatic of a new order of affairs. But the free nations of Asia are finding that independence is attended by a host of problems; they are beset from without by the repercussion of the cold war and of power diplomacy and from within by political division, by clash between the old ways and the new, and by demands which they are in no position to fulfill. Although the revolution for national independence in Asia has been largely won, the more deep-rooted *“The revolution of rising frustration”*.

The masses of the people are beginning to be articulate – a development that has revolutionary implication for the world. The life conditions of the South-Asian people are still close to intolerable, and they are improving slowly, if at all. Unless life becomes better for the Asian Masses there can be no peace in Asia or in the world. The effect of these tendencies accentuated but not influenced by World War II is certain to be that Asia will play a more active role in World politics, a role more commensurate with its size, its population and its potential might.

Asia is a giant among the continents so large that on the map Europe appears as hardly more than one of its several great peninsulas. For the student of international relations the continent of Asia may be regarded as 1)- Soviet Asia 2)- East-Asia 3)- South-east-Asia 4)- South Asia 5)- South-west Asia is probably better for understanding the Socio-economic condition of the Country. Western Student today are inclined to think of Asia as divided into two parts:- 1)- Communist Asia 2)- Non-communist Asia. The Area under Communist Control embraces considerably more than half of the entire continent.

If we talk about social pattern, the vast majority of the people of Asia are landless agricultural workers, living at

starvation level, illiterate, inarticulate, sunk in the age-old poverty, torpor, superstition and disease. Birth rates are still appallingly high and life expectancy is low. Asia people are engaged in a bitter struggle for survival. There is not enough food for all; and if improved methods of health and sanitation are introduced without great increase in food production and without voluntary limitations on the size of families the population already increasing rapidly will tend to expand so tremendously that many more will die of malnutrition and disease although demographic statistics are notoriously inadequate. Inaccurate in Asian countries even the most conservative instrument of future population growth in already overcrowded parts give cause for alarm in Japan some hundred million people are crowded into an area about the size of California with limited natural resources and with only 15 to 20% of the area in arable land, Japan has reduced its population growth rate to 1% or less the pressure of population on the land will become increasingly severe. The picture in China and India already the most populous nation of the world is almost equally depressing apparently China now has a well over 700 million people and India and Pakistan combined about 650 million people their population growing at the rate of about 2.5 % a year.

These problems are serious enough if they could be dealt with rationally and scientifically with the full cooperation of native leaders other governments and international agencies but any far reaching changes in the life conditions of the Asian masses would tend to upset the existing social and political order and to threaten the position of the privileged few who exercise determining influence in most countries in Asia today almost nowhere is there a powerful and in when shall native middle class instead of great Gulf interviews between the rulers and the ruled between two that the top of the social and political hierarchy and the uncounted millions who live on the edge of the abyss or in it if some happy exceptions elevated of many Asian streets hostile to all attempts at social change.

V. CULTURAL CURRENTS IN ANCIENT ASIA

From the beginning of the recorded history until the Renaissance the reformation and other development ushered in the modern and European -era of history, Asia was home of much of the civilization of the globe even the Greek owed a great deal to a live culture of Asia, and Hellenistic Civilization reached with highest development in Egypt and Western Asia rather than Greece. The debt of the Romans to Asia was more indirect chiefly through the Greeks but Western Asia formed an important part of the Roman empire and Asian influence such as Christianity and Mithraism had a profound effect on Rome indeed all the great religion Judaism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Muslim originate in Asia and Hinduism which perhaps should be regarded as system of philosophy rather than as religion also our products of Asia of all the Civilization that developed in Asia after the Mighty empires of Antiquity had passed from the same those which had the most lasting effect were the Arab-Persian, the Indian, and the Indian and the Chinese the other

person has roots deep in the past but it develop the conjuring real after the rise of Muhammad in the desert of Arabia in the last six and only seven centuries.¹

In 8th and 9th centuries Baghdad became the biggest intellectual centre of civilized world where Greek, Hebrew, Christian and Indian scholars mingle with their Muslim colleague and thousands of precious manuscripts and books were collected later the Muslims drove across North Africa into Spain and their established universities and other centers of culture. Islam eventually spread throughout most of the North Africa and in to Central and Southeast Asia from today The Peoples of These areas from Moscow to Pakistan are overwhelmingly Muslim it's working.

VI. THE IMPACT OF THE WEST

From the 16th century to the present, the impact of the west upon these ancient lands has been tremendous and it should be confessed, generally unfortunate for the Asians themselves. While Christian missionaries were trying to save the souls of the people, and often their bodies as well, official and traders from the west were extorting what wealth they could, with little concern for the welfare of the inhabitants. In the 16th and 17th centuries England gained footholds in India and attempted to win concessions in Japan and China. French missionaries and traders established contacts with Indo-China as early as the 17th century, but nearly 300 years were to elapse before French Indo-China came into being. Portugal, too, early contended for possessions in the East, but managed to pick up and retail only small holdings in India and the island of Macao, near Hong Kong.² Holland took over the East Indies, and in the 17th century won over from the shoguns – who were leading Japan into isolation – concessions on Deshima Island in Nagasaki Bay, which became Japan's only window to the outside world.³

India experienced the most intimate contact with the West, and in some ways the most disturbing one. Clive's defeat of the Nawab of Bengal at Plassey in 1757 traditionally marks the beginning of the British Empire in India. By the early 19th century British power has been consolidated there, and no serious challenge to that power arose until the years following World War I, when the Indian nationalist movement became an effective force. In India three civilizations – the Hindu, the Islamic and the Western Christian – to adopt the terminology of Arnold Toynbee – have met. The encounter has led to a considerable degree of fusion and cross-fertilization, but it has also produced frictions and tensions on mammoth scale.

VII. WORLD WAR I & ITS AFTERMATH

World War I had an upsetting effect in the far East and elsewhere in Asia, and the old equilibrium was never

¹ Kenneth S. Latourette, *A Short History of the Far East* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1946), p. 110.

² Jawaharlal Nehru, *The Discovery of India* (New York: The John Day Company, 1946), p. 196.

³ Arnold J. Toynbee, *The World and the West* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1953).

fully restored. Britain began to lose her dominant position there and with it the role on the world stage which she had played so effectively during the period of the Pax Britannica. The Russian Revolution had profound effects on Asia, and communism began to have a powerful appeal for Asian minds. Nationalism became an increasingly potent force, especially in the near and Middle East and in India. China floundered in a revolution of many phases and in the 1930s Japan embarked on a policy of military fascism at home and expansion and conquest on the mainland. Asia began to experience the full impact of the changes which had been gathering momentum for many decades. New stabilizing forces did not develop to arrest the tendencies towards dislocation and disequilibrium.

VIII. NATIONALISM IN ASIA:-

Nationalism in Asia is an increasingly potent force. It has led to the rise of many new States in the postwar period, from Israel to the Republic of the Philippines, and it has stimulated independence movements in nearly all colonial areas. It has been a significant force in re-emerged Japan, in war-torn China, in devastated and still-divided Korea, in somnolent Saudi Arabia, even in remote Nepal. It has been invoked with revolutionary effect by great leaders of the recent past, and it has been a source of unifying strength for present day-leaders. Its influence has by no means been confined to Asia. It has given enormous impetus to independence movements in Africa, and it is a power to be reckoned with in within world affairs in general. Although similar in theory and effect to the nationalism of the Western state system, it also seems to be developing distinctive features of its own.⁴

Japan Nationalism

Japan was the first of the Asian countries to be influenced by the modern nationalism, strongly flavoured by traditional practices and beliefs. Beginning in the second half of the 19th century her leaders built up a highly centralized state, with all the trappings of militarism, authoritarianism, and nationalism. They made every effort to inculcate loyalty to the emperor, and thus to the state and its real rulers. By building up with all possible speed a strong central government, based on industrial and military power, Japan was able to guard her sovereignty and gain recognition as a major power.⁵ In this process, “the relatively mild official type of state nationalism” of the 19th century turned into “virulent integral nationalism – once the government safety valve of expansionism had been opened.”

The rise of Japan to the unquestioned status of a great power after her surprising defeat of Russia in the war of 1904-05 is stimulated nationalist movements elsewhere in Asia. This marked the beginning of the decline of

⁴ B. R. Sen, *Nationalism and the Indian Awakening*, *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, CCLXXXII (July, 1952), 110.

⁵ Asian Nationalism: Some Psychiatric Aspects of Political Mimesis, *Psychiatry*, XVII (August, 1954), 262.

foreign control over Asia and of the legend of the invincibility of the white man, and it heralded a new order of affairs for half the people of the world.⁶ If Japan had persuade different policies she might have become the recognized of Oriental aspirations for individual and national independence; instead, she evinced a brutal disregard for the interests of her fellow Orientals. The potential leader of the new Asia offered hardly more than a new yoke for the old.⁷

Nationalism in China

The obstacles to the growth of modern nationalism in China have been very great. The concept of China as one nation among many was foreign to Chinese tradition. To the Chinese theirs was a universal empire, the centre of the universe and all other countries were satellites. Individualism and patriotism meant very little. The family system, with its emphasis on obedience to the elders of the larger family and on ancestor worship, was the important social fact. It was a unifying influence for centuries, but it was wholly antithetical to modern nationalism. On the one hand, it taught a kind of universal humanism; on the other, by its famous concept of the five fundamental relationships, it emphasized filial duty and obedience. Illiteracy, desperate poverty, superstitions, isolation, and local rivalries virtually decreed that loyalty should be first of all to the family, then perhaps to the village or even to the province, but seldom to the state.

Nationalism in India

The revolt of 1857 was the first organized expression of anti-foreign sentiment in India, the beginning of nationalism as an effective political force dated from the founding of the Indian National Congress in 1885. The Congress soon became the dynamic consolidated expression of Indian nationalism. During its first and almost pre-national period from 1885 to 1905 Congress membership was confined largely to Hindu intellectuals and professional men in Bengal. In its second phase which lasted from 1905 to 1917 it spread over all of India and enlisted support from all social and industrial classes and from Muslims as well as Hindus. Indian nationalism in this period assumed a mystic and spiritual quality which it never lost. In 1920, Gandhi launched a campaign of non-violence and non-cooperation with which the British did not know how to cope. When violence and force were resorted to by some of his own followers, Gandhi called a halt to his campaign. From 1922 to 1924 he served the first of many prison sentences, for some six years. After his release he played a little part in the nationalist movement which in these years tended to emphasize on western approaches to nationalism.⁸

⁶ Hessel Tiltman, *Japan: The Strictly Democratic "Banzai!"* *The Reporter*, March 20, 1951, p. 19.

⁷ Lawrence Olson, *Dimensions of Japan* (American Universities Field Staff, 1963), p. 401.

⁸ Mary E. Townsend, with the collaboration of C. H. Peake, *European Colonial Expansion Since 1871* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1941), p. 412.

IX. IMPERIALISM AND COMMUNISM IN ASIA

While nationalism in Asia is becoming more powerful and more successful, colonialism or imperialism is declining – indeed dying. This is a development of vast importance to the areas of Asia that have recently achieved independence, to the former colonial powers that, with varying degrees of realism, are adjusting themselves to the inevitable, and to the world at large. The decline of imperialism has been in progress for some decades, but it reached the proportion of collapse after the Second World War. Before 1939, Britain, France and the Netherlands possessed vast empires in Asia. British imperial interest, in fact extended from one end of the continent to the other. Today, the great empires are gone, probably forever.

Communist power in Asia today is formidable, and the attraction of communism is very great. Soviet Asia and China encompass much of the continent, forming a huge communist intrusion and focus of power. Communist-controlled regimes hold power in North Korea and North Vietnam, and communist parties and fellow travelers probe and scheme in almost every part of non-communist Asia. Until late 1965, they were particularly numerous, active and influential in Indonesia, but they have a considerable following in many other Asian countries, including India and Japan. Communists continue to infiltrate non-communist parties and groups and communist-dominated movements are a constant threat to the weak regimes in various Asian States, especially Asians who are beginning to enter the arena of political activity and affluence.

Intra-Regional Political System of Asia:-

In international relations forms of interstate cooperation can be conceptualized both under the institutional and neo-realist school of thought. Generally, institutionalism emphasizes common functional interests and the absolute gains of cooperation among states whether they take place in regional or interregional institutions. Neo-realist variants like defensive or offensive realism link cooperation to national interests and look at the relative gains of collaboration for the states involved.⁹ Hence cooperation is only the dependent variable to be analyzed in the overall foreign policy framework. With the focus on national interests this approach seems to offer a better suited theoretical tool to analyze India's quest for intra- and inter-regional politics.

India and South Asia

Since the independence of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 1947 and 1948 South Asian countries shared a number of common problems. The common challenges of economic and social modernization in order to overcome the underdevelopment of colonial rule offered numerous opportunities for regional cooperation. The Colombo-Plan of 1951 seemed to offer a suitable platform not least because Nehru had always promoted closer

⁹ Robert Axelrod/Robert O. Keohane, 'Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions' World Politics, 38 (October 1985): 226-254.

collaboration among Asian and African countries.¹⁰ But despite the common historical legacy of British rule bilateral problems like Kashmir and the question of Tamil citizenship in Sri Lanka from the beginning hindered a common approach to tackling regional problems. In contrast to Southeast Asia where the concept of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) of 1971 underlined the common security perception among the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asia was characterized by the divergent threat perceptions vis-à-vis the super powers, bilateral conflicts like the Indo-Pakistan confrontation over Kashmir, which caused two wars, and India's hegemonic ambitions towards her neighbours.

It was not until the end of the 1970s that ideas of regional collaboration were raised by smaller countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka which saw it as a useful tool to counter India's dominance in the region. After various rounds of negotiations the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was finally established in December 1985 when the heads of states held their first summit meeting in Dhaka. A common secretariat was set up in Kathmandu in 1987 but the overall development of SAARC remained slow until 1991. Bilateral security issues like Kashmir overshadowed and slackened the pace of regional collaboration. Security issues on the one hand and India's mixed economy on the other hand hindered the expansion of intraregional trade. Except for landlocked countries like Nepal and Bhutan intraregional trade remained of minimal importance for the main economies.¹¹

India and Southeast Asia

Nehru's ambitions for regional cooperation found greater resonance in Southeast Asia. Especially regional crises like in Indonesia 1949 or in Indochina in the 1950s seemed to fulfil his ideas of India's new regional importance. But because of the communist threat, the countries of Southeast Asia were more interested in ensuring their security needs with participation in bilateral military alliances with the United States or multilateral arrangements such as the Southeast Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO) which was established in 1954. Yet, it was not only concepts of security that differed between India and Southeast Asia. A similar development could be observed in economic affairs. After the creation of ASEAN in 1967 there were serious deliberations in India to join the new regional organisation.¹² Although India shared some of ASEAN's threat perceptions such as fear of communist insurgencies, the pro-Western strategic outlook of ASEAN seems to have hindered India's entry into the new organization. There were also reservations in Southeast Asia because of India's lingering Kashmir conflict with Pakistan. In the years following this missed opportunity India and Southeast Asia drifted even further apart. Economically Southeast Asia developed into the world's most

¹⁰ Joseph Nye, quoted in Norman Palmer, *The New Regionalism in Asia and the Pacific*, Lexington 1991, p. 6.

¹¹ R.S. Yadav, 'NAM in the New World Order', in: *India Quarterly*, 49 (1993) 3: 47.

¹² Jawaharlal Nehru, 'Future Taking Shape', in: *Jawaharlal Nehru, India's Foreign Policy, Selected Speeches, September 1946-April 1961*, New Delhi: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Publications Division 1961, p. 2.

dynamic region throughout the 1980s due to its export strategy. The 'Tiger economy' became a synonym for successful economic development and was regarded as a model for the developing world. On the other hand, India's inward looking mixed economy was unable to overcome the so called Hindu rate of growth of about 3.5 percent. In security issues, ASEAN became more closely linked to the United States. In contrast to this India avoided military alliances, became a nuclear power in 1974 and turned into a regional hegemony with Indira Gandhi's South Asia doctrine.¹³ Politically, India with the exception of the emergency from 1975 to 1977 followed a democratic path along Western traditions. In Southeast Asia the political development was characterized by a variety of authoritarian regime began to develop their own set of political and cultural values in order to combine economic success with their political regimes.¹⁴

X. INTER-REGIONAL AND INTRAREGIONAL POLITICS DURING AND AFTER COLD WAR

Even before independence in August 1947 Nehru developed his own ideas of an international order that centred on anti-colonialism and disarmament. Not military confrontation but cooperation was his answer to overcome both the problems of underdevelopment and to increase the importance of Asia in international affairs. As early as 1945, Nehru brought up the idea of an Asian Federation that should represent the interest of Asian countries in world affairs. In September 1946 he laid down a principle of Non-Align Movement.¹⁵

The end of the Cold war and the collapse of the Soviet Union which was regarded as India's most important political and economic ally also had a deep impact on foreign policy. Initially India was thought to be the 'loser' at the end of the Cold war. Yet, it turned out that few other countries benefited more from the international changes of the 1990s. India's economic policy opened up the country to foreign direct investment and trade. Moreover the new consensus in the international community on democracy, market reforms and protection of human rights brought India much closer to the international mainstream than before 1991. India's new international significance became obvious with her improved relations to the United States, China and the European Union. Besides the emerging international constellations in Asia and the expansion of regional groupings that initiated the debate about concepts of new or open regionalism, the most important change for India was that economic questions became important foreign policy issues. Connected with the new importance of economic liberalization was the question of energy, which became another main driver of India's foreign policy in the 1990s. During the previous period of mixed economy India followed a policy of import

¹³ Kripa Sridharan, *The ASEAN Region in India's Foreign Policy*, Dartmouth 1996, p. 50.

¹⁴ Amit Baruah, India, 'ASEAN sign pact on free trade', *The Hindu*, 09.10.2003.

¹⁵ Mohammed Ayoob, *India and Southeast Asia. Indian Perceptions and Policies*, London/New York 1990: 11. According to the memories of a senior Indian official, India was offered full membership in the yet-to-be-established ASEAN in the mid 1960s. This proposal was turned down because India was not willing according to a senior Indian minister to cooperate with 'Coca Cola countries', see Ram N., 'Catching up in the east', *The Hindu*, 29.11.2004.

substitution rather than export promotion like in Southeast Asia. India's share in global trade therefore shrank from about 2% in the 1950s to less than 0.5% in the 1980s.

But the failures of her development model became obvious in the early 1980s when Indira Gandhi started diffident economic reforms. At least after 1991 foreign policy decision makers in India recognized that economic power was not only important for national development but also for great power status on the international level. Thus the new economic priorities had far reaching impacts on India's intra- and inter-regional policies.

XI. FOREIGN POLICIES IN ASIA WITH EFFECT IN INDIA:-

They very much affect the relationship with other countries as foreign policy. Historically we have always been a neutral country due to wide range of opinion of people are clearly couldn't be on a single side for example; We are one of the few countries to have close ties with both **Israel and Palestine** from the birth of our nation P.M. Jawaharlal Nehru gave a lot of importance to our foreign policy and wanted to maintain good interest with all the countries of the world.¹⁶

The main objectives of foreign policy are;

1. Maintenance of freedom in political formulation.
2. Promotion of international pear.
3. Co-operation with United Nations.
4. Discernment
5. Opposition to colonialism, imperialism and racism.
6. Cooperation amount among development of countries.¹⁷

The foreign policy of India has a lot of affect on the relationship with the neighboring countries of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Bangladesh and others. We as a country have been very much involved in the political situation of these countries.

India's Strategy in Afghanistan

India's most fundamental goal for Afghanistan is to prevent Afghanistan from being used as a base for Pakistani-supported extremists to launch terrorist attacks in India or against Indian interests (for example, against its diplomatic missions in Afghanistan).¹⁸ India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN)

¹⁶ Inder K. Gujral, A Foreign Policy for India, 1998, p. 37-38.

¹⁷ Jaswant Singh, 'India's Perspective on International and Regional Security Issues', lecture in Berlin, 17.01.2001, manuscript.

stated in July 2008 that “security within Afghanistan, and coordinated efforts to stop terrorists from operating with impunity beyond Afghanistan’s borders must be the paramount priority of our collective efforts in Afghanistan.” Just four months later, in November 2008, assaults on multiple sites in Mumbai by Pakistani-backed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) fighters hardened Indian resolve to prevent future attacks, through military means if necessary.

India is pursuing a range of strategies to advance its interests in and related to Afghanistan. In addition to seeking political and economic influence in Kabul, Delhi also strives to integrate Afghanistan into regional economic structures, offers training to Afghan security forces on a limited scale, and hopes to win Afghans’ hearts and minds by providing extensive development assistance and projecting its considerable **“soft power.”**¹⁹

India and Nepal

Our most trusted allies and the only country where we allow their citizens to work in our country in the field of government as well as private sector. Historically, Nepal was never occupied by the British government but they supplied labour from Nepal to India.²⁰ They sent Gorkha troops to fight for the British settings and historical wars. India and Nepal has several treaties regarding trade and commerce, defense and labour support from the pre-independence time. In a recent case in 2015 a Nepalese government was reelected and a new constitution was adopted which is very similar to the Indian constitution. This happened due to the high involvement of the Indian government in politics of Nepal.²¹

India and Sri Lanka

India and Sri Lanka are very similar countries right from the culture, customs, etc. It comes as no surprise that Sri Lanka who make up about of the nation’s population, trace their ancestral roots to Aryans of Eastern India. Whereas, Tamils who make up 18% of the population trace their roots to Dravidians. The Tamils of Sri Lanka consists a significant number of Indian Tamils and they have good family connection with the people of Tamil Nadu.²² The first issue between the countries popped up during the rebellion of LTTE which was a Nexalite organization made up of Tamils formed because of the rigid behavior of the Sri Lankan Government and not giving equal rights to Tamil minorities. The Indian government was deeply involved in this situation sending troops to the country to tackle the situation in the favour of Sri Lankan government and it faced criticism from

¹⁸ Arun Sahgal, “U.S. Af-Pak Strategy and Afghanistan’s Alternative Futures: Options for India,” in R. K. Sawhney, Arun Sahgal, and Gurmeet Kanwal, eds., *Afghanistan: A Role for India*, New Delhi: Centre for Land Warfare Studies, 2011, p. 134.

¹⁹ Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, “India,” in Ashley J. Tellis and Aroop Mukharji, eds., *Is a Regional Strategy Viable in Afghanistan?* Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2010, p. 28. See also Vishal Chandra, “The Afghan Maze and India’s Options,” seminar, New Delhi: Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, September 4, 2009.

²⁰ Upreti.B.C, “Nepal Transition to Democratic Republic State” (India, Kalpaz Publications, 2010)

²¹ Sanjay Upadhya, “Nepal and the Geo- strategic Rivalry between China and India”, (New York, Routledge publication,2012).

²² Sri Lankan monks protest against attacks in South India.” *Global Times*, 19 March 2013, www.globaltimes.cn

both sides and they retreated their troops but our then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated due to the involvement. Prior to the elections the current situation is how ever fine and both of the countries enjoy a lot of good political and economic ties.

India and Bangladesh

India and Bangladesh are very deeply connected. Bangladesh is half of the Bengal state. Is the whole of Bangladesh made up of Bengali population and shares a lot of customs and traditions with the Indian state of West Bengal. Bangladesh has a very good reason to be thankful to India as the origins of the country or the foundation of its laws and army was formed due to the support of the then Indian government in 1971. But today, we have a lot of problem with Bangladesh which includes border disputes, increased number of refugees from Bangladesh to India. The situation has improved from the past two years. We had exchanged some territories for better governance and to provide better education and economic security to those territories and also to make better relation between the two countries.²³

India's Relations with Pakistan and China

Now coming to the most important neighbors, China and Pakistan, two different cases but has same effect on us. Pakistan has the worst bilateral relationship with India. They are always in a war one time or another. The fights include the cross border fights and territorial disputes, water disputes and the most important Pakistan occupied Kashmir and other significant regions of Punjab, Rajasthan, and some other northern states.²⁴ This is the only country where relationship was so adverse and mentally hatred among the citizens of both the countries. At present situation surgical strike as propounded from both side in the border dispute.²⁵

Coming to China, both India and China are mutually very important economically, socially and in international organization also. It shows the relation of the neighboring countries which has significant impact on the United Nations. But china has a conflict with India on interest of Tibet territorial dispute with Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, and many other North Eastern states. The only hope is that these countries should resolve their disputes and help each other to grow in every sector of development.²⁶

XII. CONCLUSION

In the great Asian continent, three states, namely Japan, China and India deserve special attention. At least two

²³ "Sri Lankan President Mahinda arrives in India amid MDMK protest" India Today, 20,Sep 2012, www.m.indiatoday.in

²⁴ Chidambaram quoted in Marika Vicziany, 'Inquiry into Nuclear Tests by India and Pakistan', Submission to the References Committee Australian Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee, The Australian Parliament, Parliament House Canberra Act 2600 ([http:// www.fas.org/news/india/1998/09/980900-inq.htm](http://www.fas.org/news/india/1998/09/980900-inq.htm)). (accessed 02.08.2005).

²⁵ Rao P.V. Narasimha, India and the Asia-Pacific: forging a new relationship, Singapur 1994, p. 16.

²⁶ Christian Wagner, 'From Hard Power to Soft Power? Ideas, Interaction, Institutions, and Images in India's South Asia Policy', Heidelberg 2005 (Heidelberg Papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics, Working Paper No. 26), <http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/volltextserver/volltexte/2005/5436/pdf/hpsacp26.pdf>

others, Indonesia and Pakistan stand out prominently, Indonesia because she is by far the most populous state of south-east Asia and Pakistan, because she occupies a strategic position in the south-Asian sub-continent. With respect to the foreign policy orientation, many different attitudes may be discerned among Asian leaders today. Communist China would keep peace in Asia and save the continent from capitalist imperialism by bringing the entire area under direct or indirect communist control. In the research project, I tried to give the proper explanation for the shifting changes in the important Asian countries like Japan, China and India, and also highlighted the key features and impacts of Asian countries on India, and how their political systems are interrelated to each other.

India's new quest for intraregional and inter-regional politics has to be understood in the overall framework of her foreign policy and her great power ambitions. Diplomatic activities since the early 1990s clearly show that Indian foreign policy today has a much more dynamic approach towards intra- and inter-regional organizations. India followed a multi-faceted strategy in the multilateral field throughout the 1990s. Indian foreign policy has aimed at closer intraregional cooperation by strengthening existing organizations like SAARC. It has furthermore looked for new opportunities for regional collaboration by becoming more integrated in existing organizations like ASEAN, applying for membership in APEC and ASEM or by establishing new institutions like BIMSTEC and IORARC. Regional organizations offered a new platform in which India could pursue both her national interests for economic growth and energy security and great power status. India's new economic policies and her aspirations for great power status in the 21st century have redefined and shifted her focus of regional collaboration from South to Southeast Asia. Besides the multilateral level India's improved relations with China and the U.S. illustrate at the same time that India is prepared to play the great power game on the bilateral level as well.

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