

INTRODUCTION

This study is an effort made to understand the dominating factors of India's foreign policy. Every nation has certain natural factors which go in making its foreign policy. Like every other country, India's foreign policy is influenced by its own peculiar factors.

India, as a British Colony had its own experiences, which no doubt have influenced the making of the foreign policy. Nevertheless, the natural factors have also played a major role in making the foreign policy. Managing one's relations with other states is an essential activity of every state. This activity of managing relations with other state is what we call 'nation's foreign policy'. The foreign policy of a country is generally expressed in terms of 'objectives and 'goals'. In this direction it would be apt to point ^{out} that India is the only country which has tried to combine idealism with national interest'. National interest it is found had aⁿ equal consideration with idealist approach of Pandit Nehru as the nation's freedom fighter and the first Prime Minister of our country.

A study of these basic factors, have been tried to assess in this study i.e. (a) Geography, (b) Economics, (c) Social and idealogical, caste, religion culture etc.,

have also their own influences on the concept of 'non-alignment'. It is of recent, the study of Geography and Political Science has gained importance. Both Political geographers and political scientists have stated that the field of geography links geography and political science and is tilled by workers from both sides. This study is hence an effort made in this direction, to examine mainly geography and its ^{no} collarries in making India's foreign policy.

The study has mainly based itself on the available material from various books on India's foreign policy. It may suffer from certain limits as the work had to be completed in specific-time limit. It is an aggregate analysis of existing material. The work is divided in five chapters and a conclusion.

The first chapter deals with geography which is an important factor which influences India's foreign policy. The fixed facts of geography make the foreign policy of a given country. In this chapter an assessment is made that geography is the basic factor which influences India's foreign policy. It includes the physical location, geographical location, strategic location, sea frontage, climate and soils and mineral wealth.

The second chapter - 'Race, Caste, Religion and Culture' is also assessed as an important factor as they are closely

related with geography. India's foreign policy ranges widely through history to identify the variety of influence which flowed between India and its neighbours.

The third chapter - non-alignment as a principle of India's foreign policy is dealt at large. 'It was in 1946, that Nehru first came out with his declaration of non-alignment as the basis of India's foreign policy. The greatest significance of non-alignment perhaps lies in the fact that it announced the desire of the Asian and African States to enter the balance of power struggle in their own right⁽¹⁾.

Chapter fourth deals with continuity and change in Indian foreign policy referring the neighbour country especially Pakistan. The crisis of identify, the status t conflict, and conflict of images which lay at the root of the Indo-Pakistan conflict are too deep rooted.

The fifth chapter in main tries to understand India vis-vis Pakistan as a factors in their respective foreign policies. "India is always considered by Pakistan as a factor in shaping her foreign policy and when this is a case, India also has to consider Pakistan as a factor in shaping her foreign policy". Both because of the more powerful geo-political position and her general policy of

friendship and goodwill for all nations, (Pakistan was a far less important factor in India's foreign policy and relations.) Indo-Pak relations have been subjected always to super-power interference. It is only this aspect which has created a doubt as to whether India has truly remained non-aligned as a main principle of her foreign policy.

Hence the work mainly concerns itself to elaborate the elements influencing India's foreign policy; in which geography, history, race, language, culture etc., have also played a dominant role in influencing the making of India's foreign policy. Besides "Indo-Pakistan influencing the respective foreign policy has been dealt at large.

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